



todos juntos
Going Places

Family Spotlight: Martha and Emmanuel

Martha and her son Emmanuel became part of the TJ *familia* in 2020. Martha heard about Todos Juntos through the Avance program 4 years ago and was excited when she got the opportunity to enroll with Emmanuel last year. *(Collaborative community is at the heart of TJ, because when we work together with other organizations, we're able to make even greater impacts on the families we serve.)* Martha shares that she was motivated to join Todos Juntos with her son because she feels that it's crucial that children prepare for school early in life. She also loves TJ's dual-generation education approach, because as Emmanuel prepares for school, she can practice and improve her English.

Last year was a difficult year for Martha's family. Martha became unemployed during the pandemic, fell ill with COVID-19, and was not able to continue working because all her children were doing online schooling. During the 2021 Winter Storm, Martha's house and car got damaged and her family had to seek shelter elsewhere. However, she has not let the tough times stop her. She sees staying at home as an opportunity to keep taking English classes and to support Emmanuel in his development. Martha shares that her family is so grateful to Todos Juntos for providing them with learning opportunities and making their Christmas special with presents. "The Todos Juntos Community has always helped our families without judging, and that's incredible!" she shares.

Todos Juntos teachers "*son un amor*" (are lovely people), Martha says. "They are amazing at keeping us informed about our classes and any resources. From Emmanuel's teachers, I learned to educate my children with patience. Emmanuel loves to color, paint, learn about shapes, and sing songs from his classes! Sometimes when Emmanuel sees his siblings work on homework, he likes to sit next to them and do activities too, without any help from anyone. Emmanuel and his older brother feel less shy and more confident in themselves as a result of Early Childhood Education programs like Todos Juntos."

Martha says that she tells everyone about Todos Juntos and that the Center "exceeded my expectations and I never imagined a program like this before! At Todos Juntos, we feel as if we are part of a family".



Martha & Emmanuel

Spring Celebration Mami and Me

A huge shoutout to our donors and friends at **BookSpring** for helping Todos Juntos provide spring books, learning materials, Easter baskets, and the softest stuffed bunnies to all of our Todos Juntos kiddos during our Spring Mami and Me Drive-Thru celebration, and to **volunteers from Generation SERVE** for assembling the baskets! Thanks to your support, we were able to make Spring and Easter special for our families and see the joy on our little learners' faces at a safe distance. Even though we celebrated Spring apart, we continue to be strong *juntos* and look forward to returning to our Annual Spring Family Picnic and Egg Hunt next year!



Winter Storm Support and Care

This year's winter weather crisis, created additional hardship during an already difficult year. From damage to homes, to weeks of lost income to illness - thanks to our amazing community, families were able to count on our *escuelita* for access to critical needs, including water, basic staples such as eggs, milk, and bread, diapers and formula, and more. And thanks to many of you, we were able to process \$93,000 in emergency financial assistance applications, including supporting families at our partner agencies, AACHI - Austin Asian Community Health Initiative, Mariposa, and the YMCA early learning community.

We truly have the most amazing volunteers, partners, and donors. Board members helped pick up and distribute Domino's pizza and cheese trays donated by **Antonelli's Cheese Shop**. Our friends at **Richard's Rainwater** and **Young Voices of Austin** organized an emergency water delivery all the way from Mississippi that arrived just in time for our families who desperately needed water after days of living without water and electricity. The Sock Club provided a nice touch of warmth by donating 1,000 pairs of socks! And of course, our amazing friends at **El Buen Samaritano** who always go above and beyond and again extended their kindness to our families by providing emergency food boxes and additional cases of water.

We greatly appreciate our amazing volunteers, staff and TJ families, who all worked together and helped our community by driving to neighboring counties to find milk, bread, water, and any other items that were incredibly scarce in Central Texas during this time. One TJ volunteer, Ensy Atarod, shared, "Like so many families in Austin, the Winter Storm of 2021 was hard on our family. One of the worst parts for me was the loss of control. I couldn't control when the electricity and water would return, or when the roads would clear up. Even though it was difficult for my family, I knew that others in the community were suffering even more. It was an easy decision to help, to gain back some control, and put my energy toward gathering basic food supplies for those who needed it."

To everyone who who lent a helping hand during this time - *muchisimas gracias*. It truly takes a village and we feel very lucky to count you as part of ours.



TJ Board Member, Estevan Delgado (left) and TJ Founder & ED, Christina Collazo (right) distributing pizzas and cheese plates to TJ families during the 2021 Winter Storm.



AmplifyATX 2021

With the help of our Austin community, Todos Juntos raised **\$4,000** during our **AmplifyATX** campaign on March 4th and 5th! Your generous gifts were immediately put into action and helped support our families as they continued to recover from the Winter Storm Uri. Mil gracias to our donors and the Austin community for your continued support as we work *Juntos* to support and empower more Central Texas families!



COVID-19, Connecting Families

Since last summer, Todos Juntos has been working diligently to connect our families and community with accurate information related to COVID-19. Part of that work includes culturally responsive *platicas* (talks) to answer all questions and concerns regarding COVID and the COVID-19 vaccine. Thank you to **Dr. Brandon Allport-Altillo, M.D., MPH of Dell Medical School** and **Dr. Jahanett Ramirez, MD, MPH of The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work** for being a part of the panel and ensuring that Central Texas families have accurate and up-to-date information. We're also grateful to **Blanca Valencia from Contigo Wellness** for leading the *platica* as our moderator.

Check out our COVID-19 Vaccine *Platica* on the Todos Juntos Facebook page at: https://fb.watch/52-My_-hFU/

COVID-19 Vaccine

A Todos Juntos *Platica* with Local Health Providers

Virtual Q&A

Empower yourself with knowledge and join Todos Juntos as we speak with local healthcare providers about the COVID-19 Vaccine



TJ Board Member Takes The Plunge

This winter, one of our wonderful board members, **Javier Castaneda**, went above and beyond in his support to the Todos Juntos Community by organizing a **Polar Plunge**. What was meant to be a one-man challenge turned into a community affair when his daughter, friends and neighbors all decided to join in, too!



In February, Javier's Polar Plunge raised over \$1,300 to support TJ's dual-generation programming.

A video of their plunge can be found on our social media. When we asked Javier if he had anything to say about his winter adventure, he said **"Will Freeze For English"**.

Thank you, Javier and friends, for your support and dedication to our community and for being amazing TJ ambassadors!