



todos juntos Going Places

Saludables Juntos

Todos Juntos continues to prioritize the health and safety of our familias and the Central Texas community. This is why we have partnered with our friends at the **US Hispanic Contractors Association**, **Texas Division of Emergency Management**, **El Buen Samaritano**, **St. John - San Juan Lutheran Church**, **Bernardo Kohler Center**, **EGBI**, **Mainspring Schools**, **Avance-Austin**, and **Vax Together Austin** to host and support five COVID-19 vaccination clinics during the earlier summer months.

A huge shout-out to our vaccine equity funding partners, **Austin Community Foundation**, **St. David's Foundation**, and **United Way of Greater Austin** for helping organizations like ours do this critical work. And of course to our amazing volunteers, translators and the wonderful clinic staff for making our evening walk-in clinics accessible!

Finally, we are very excited about the wonderful work being done by our moms who make up our **Parent Vaccine Ambassadors** team for their tireless efforts in sharing out culturally relevant, fact-based information to our community as we continue to work *Juntos* to promote vaccine equity and access in Central Texas.



MEET TODOS JUNTOS VOLUNTEER, MELISSA KEANE

How did you get involved with Todos Juntos?

Serendipity connected me to Todos Juntos. A friend offered me his ticket to TJ's 2019 fundraiser, and because I had already volunteered to work with the banquet staff to set up the hall for the gala, I accepted his ticket, just for fun. After laying out tablecloths, silverware, napkins and programs, I slipped into the choir room to change my tie-dyed tee shirt for gala-appropriate dress. Returning to the banquet hall, the energy, commitment and whole-hearted goodwill obvious throughout the TJ organization prompted me to make a donation that night and to investigate how else I might contribute to Todos Juntos.

What do you wish other people knew about Todos Juntos?

Since that delightful evening, I have spent time (pre-COVID-19) reading one-on-one with little ones, working (via ZOOM) to prepare a mother to for her citizenship test, and unpacking chairs in TJ's new space while wearing a mask and social-distancing. In every interaction with TJ folks, I experience again that sense of whole-hearted goodwill. When I chat with someone who may be thinking about donating or volunteering, I always describe Todos Juntos as, simply, a good place: smart, kind, and nimble.

Are you involved with any other nonprofit organization in Central Texas? Yes. Collaborating with the vibrant TJ staff balances my other volunteer work—sorting through

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Congratulations to our Adult National Honor Society Inductees!

The Todos Juntos Community is so proud of our adult English learners and TJ parents on the completion of another year of classes (and in a pandemic no less!). While we had to forgo an in-person induction, we want to congratulate the following TJ moms on their hard work and perseverance: Marisol Benitez-Loza, Lissette Martinez, Paw Me, and Ana Ramirez.

Felicidades, TJ Families!

Despite an extremely challenging academic year amid the pandemic, our students kept showing their enthusiasm for learning week after week, and we are so proud of them all! Thank you **BlueCross BlueShield of Texas** and **GoodPop** for sponsoring this year's celebration, and to **BookSpring** for providing summer reading material to all kiddos in attendance! Congratulations to our little ones on this huge milestone! We can't wait to hear about all of the great things they accomplish as they continue their learning in various Central Texas school districts and systems, and we look forward to welcoming our younger kiddos back for more TJ learning next year!



MEET TODOS JUNTOS VOLUNTEER, MELISSA KEANE (CONTINUED)

dusty papers and faded photographs in the Flower Hill archives, an Austin family's history since 1877. Together, Flower Hill and Todos Juntos allow me to spend time with all my favorite things: family histories, energetic children, and big-hearted adults.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

In my professional life, I worked as an archaeologist, historian, professor, and, eventually, regional manager—and have also bartended, written grant proposals, and edited stacks and stacks of reports. I lived in Austin in the 1970s as a newlywed grad student, and returned as a retiree in 2017. My daughter's family lives down the street from me in East Austin, and my son's family lives in New Zealand!

Día del Niño/Niña 2021

One of our favorite experiences each year is seeing the absolute joy and excitement on our littlest learners' faces when they first see a joey (baby kangaroo)! Our friends at **Wild Things Zoofari** always do a fantastic job at providing fun-filled learning and interactions with a variety of animal friends and this year, we intentionally scheduled it as a way to commemorate Día del Niño//Niña (Children's Day) on April 30th! Día del Niño/Niña is celebrated annually in Mexico and emphasizes loving and appreciating children and their uniqueness.

Not only did our kiddos get to hang with the Zoofari crew and take home a photo thanks to **BlueCross BlueShield**, but they were also treated to a puppet-filled morning by their teachers and mamas using their theme-specific monthly learning kits. And the whole month was rounded out by our friends at **Leap of Joy** who provided another fabulous dance class to our moms and kiddos. Thanks Leap of Joy for empowering them to keep dancing!



(Melissa pictured on left, setting up tables at our new space!)

Thank you for all that you do, Melissa!



Splashing into Summer

Mil gracias to our partners **Tankproof** and **AllKidSwim** for helping our little learners and their siblings stay safe in the water this summer through their free swimming classes and water safety workshop at the Austin Motel on South Congress. All participants received lunch, swim goggles and Spanish copies of the book "See Me Bubble"!

Thank you, amigos, for helping our little ones enjoy themselves safely and develop their love of swimming!

