



The MultiCultural Outreach Program (MCOP) Annual Report  
December 1, 2016

## **CELEBRATING 2016 AT MCOP -- AND FACING FUTURE CHALLENGES -- TOGETHER**

Now in its third year, the MultiCultural Outreach Program (MCOP) has become a vital link between our immigrant neighbors in Iowa, Grant, Lafayette and Richland Counties and our communities.

### **OUR 2016 REPORT**

- MCOP'S presence has been greatly increased within the immigrant community thanks to our full-time VISTA volunteer, Ana Karina Burton, who was with us through June. We are grateful for her assistance.
- Our new Direct Services Consultant, Nereida Burkard, and key volunteers are working tirelessly to identify community resources for our Spanish-speaking friends in a number of challenging areas of need.
- Our ESL tutors are working with a major Wiota dairy, teaching a number of their workers English. Special thanks to the volunteer tutors and to Pastor Mae Jean Zelle and the Wiota Lutheran Church which hosts the classes.
- MCOP is working with Fennimore schools on its exciting new Fennimore After-School Multicultural Literacy and STEM Education Program, by reaching out to the parents of the children involved.
- Our one-on-one volunteer tutors are now working with over 60 students in Grant, Iowa and Lafayette Counties. We are grateful for your service.



### **MEET LUZ NEREIDA BURKARD**

Nereida Burkard, our part-time bilingual Direct Services Coordinator, is available via phone at 608-642-1753 to assist our Spanish-speaking neighbors with a number of challenges – including finding housing, transportation, employment, health care, social services, legal and finance counseling and more.

She also works closely with health care providers, schools, social service agencies and other local organizations to match services available with the expanding needs of our Hispanic community.

Born in Chicago, she lives in Platteville with her husband, Troy, and their two children. Both her parents were born in Puerto Rico and moved to the mainland before Nereida was born. Currently teaching at a Dual Language Immersion School in Madison, Nereida is “passionate about helping newcomers establish themselves here in Southwest Wisconsin.”

## MEET THE FAMILIES WE SERVE....

Following are examples of the many ways we are helping our Hispanic neighbors. Details and names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

*\*Maria, the victim of domestic abuse, was experiencing extreme anxiety and nightmares and did not know where to turn. MCOP connected her with a Spanish-speaking support person, trained in domestic violence. We're also helping her apply for a special Visa for people in her situation, since she cooperated with the police. That case is still pending but we're hoping for a positive outcome. Along the way, we're learning a great deal about domestic abuse resources to help others in the future.*

*\*Enrique called MCOP when emergency surgery resulted in very large medical bills for hospitals, labs, surgeons, radiologists, anesthesiologists, etc. He didn't speak English and didn't know what to do. By working cooperatively with providers and collection agencies, our volunteers arranged for some of his bills to be written off or greatly reduced. He now has an affordable payment plan and a sense of relief that his wages will not be garnished. From this experience, we are developing a comprehensive guide for other clients and local health care providers.*

*\*Esteban called MCOP, anxious and upset, after receiving a call purportedly from the IRS. The caller told him that he owed a large amount of taxes that needed to be paid immediately, or there would be dire consequences. We were able to assure Esteban that the call was a hoax, and that the IRS did not collect back taxes in this manner.*

*\*Guadalupe and Jorge and their children had just rented an apartment, but were told after two weeks and no apparent problems that they needed to leave. We located a volunteer tenants' rights attorney to help if needed. Because they felt unwanted, they decided to leave anyway, and we helped them find other suitable housing. Working with Guadalupe and Jorge and others in similar circumstances has made us aware of the importance of housing issues within the immigrant community. This awareness is leading us to develop additional ways to be of assistance.*

## MCOP IS IN THE HEADLINES

*Breaking language barriers in Southwest Wisconsin* was the headline for the April 6 [Dubuque Herald Tribune](#) article about our ESL program. In the article Karen Rundell, our Grant County coordinator, described the first time her adult student was able to read to her children in English. "The kids sat with their hands up to their faces, mesmerized as their mother read them their first story in English. They were so proud of her. It was a moment that just tugged at your heart." Jim Winn, the owner of a large dairy farm near South Wayne, described the importance of teaching English to his Hispanic workers. "They're vital to our operation. If we didn't have them, we'd be selling this place."



## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

One of the best ways to help our Spanish-speaking neighbors is to become an English as a Second Language (ESL) volunteer tutor, where you'll work one-on-one or in a small group with adult students. You do not have to speak Spanish to become a tutor. To learn more, please contact:

In *Grant County*, Karen Rundell at [rrundell@centurytel.net](mailto:rrundell@centurytel.net), 608-348-5583

In *Lafayette County*, Kathy Chase at [mkgdchase@hotmail.com](mailto:mkgdchase@hotmail.com), 608-732-2512

In *Iowa County*, Kathy Warpinski at [kashkaj46@gmail.com](mailto:kashkaj46@gmail.com), 608-341-8171

We are also seeking Spanish-speaking volunteers, to help with translating, interpreting, tutoring as well as serving as advocates for our families.

## CHECK OUT MCOP'S NEW WEBSITE at [www.mcopwi.org](http://www.mcopwi.org)

On the "About Us" page you'll learn about our mission and meet our Advisory Council, partners and major funders. On our "Publications" page you will find: 1) the 2016 revised version of the bilingual Richland County Resource Directory, partially funded by MCOP, 2) the Iowa County Resource Directory, compiled by MCOP and sponsored by Alliant Energy, and 3) the Platteville English & Spanish Community Resource Directory, compiled by MCOP and funded by a generous grant from the Platteville Community Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Inc.



## THIS YEAR'S HONOR ROLL OF GENEROUS DONORS

We offer our grateful thanks to all of the organizations and individuals listed below. Without their support our services would not be possible. Under the umbrella of SWCAP, our parent organization, MCOP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which means your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Alvin Everett  
Amy Warpinski  
Ann Dolan  
Ann Wolfe and Ed Wohl  
Anne Bachner  
Annie Waitzman  
Barbara and Bill Schilling  
Barbara Glass  
Barbara Namenwirth  
Becky Nelson  
Bernard Micke  
Betsy D'Angelo  
Betty Wastlick  
Bill and Jayne Wisler  
Bill and Lisa DuWell  
Bill Briska and Fran Cella

Bill Grover and Greta Guenther  
Bob and Caroline Butler  
Carol Rubin  
Chuck and Carolyn Wilson  
Cindy and Randy Fleming  
Coleman and John Fetters  
Cotton Wood Dairy  
Craig Simenson  
Cynthia Kaufman  
D.W. Haskins  
Dave and Gretchen Pearson  
David and Virginia Jensen  
Dawn and John Ingham  
Debora Kennedy  
Deirdre Birmingham and John Biondi  
Derrick and Janet Gee

Dianne Greenley  
Dick and Ginny Wickman  
Dick and Judy James  
Don Hawkins  
Don Katz and Becca Krantz  
Earl and Evelyn McCullough  
Earl and Shirley Barnes  
Efrat Livny and Ken Baun  
Eileen and Mark Frank  
Elizabeth Savides  
Eric and Susan Anderson  
Fanou and Bryan Walton  
Gail Ginsberg  
Ginny and Al Feist  
Greg and Lea Stroncek  
Irene and Don Golembiewski  
Jack and Carol Naughton  
James Giesen and Mary Klink  
James Winn  
Jan Giffey  
Jane and Vincent Kavaloski  
Jane Furchgott and Charles Munch  
Jane Peckham  
Janice Stoltz  
Jason Van Horn and Elisabeth Bach-Van Horn  
Jeanne and Dan Patenaude  
Jeffery and Janice Grayson  
Jennifer and Greg Myszkowski  
Jill and Chuck Roethe  
Jim McCaulley  
Joe and June Meudt  
Joe Milinovich and Laurie Baruch  
John and Dawn Kabot  
John and Jubie Simonson  
John and Linda Hurley  
John and Mary Ann McKenna  
John and Phyllis Savides  
Joyce and Ken Von Rueden  
Julie Phillips  
Karen and Chuck Tennesen  
Karen and Dick Rundell  
Kathy Warpinski and Michael Knoedler  
Kay and Tom Young  
Kent Mayfield and Jack Ford

Lauren and Rick Thuli  
Leslie and Rick Jensen  
Linda and Daniel Marquardt  
Lisa and Jim Glueck  
Lynne Kolz  
Marcia and Alan Jewell  
Marcia Jablonski  
Margot Kennard  
Marianne Smith Davidson  
Marilyn Rinehart  
Martha and Bill Boyer  
Mary Mayo  
Mary Michal and David Haskin  
Michael Steffel and Kristin Holman  
Midge Steger  
Mike and Lisa Humke  
Mike and Mary Ann Wolkomir  
Mike and Susan Van Sicklin  
Nancy Nichols  
Nancy Olson and Jeff Henderson  
Paul Biere and Ginger Brand  
Peg Rasch  
Platteville Community Fund  
Plymouth United Church of Christ  
Resha Wyman  
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers  
Rick Hansen and Susan Beebe  
Robert and Janet Hirschy  
Robert Bernardoni and Charlotte Doherty  
Robin Carlson and Curt Pawlisch  
Sally Dahir  
Sandra Shane-Dubow  
Schilling Farms  
Sean Rundell  
Sharon Nicholas  
Sherry Wachholz and Robert Chapman  
Sinsinawa Dominicans  
Stephen and Diane Savides  
Susan and Larry Hallett  
Susan Gereau and Paul Cummins  
Susan O'Leary and Jim Roseberry  
Terry Testolin  
Wally Orzechowski  
Walt Keough and Gloria Green

