

Literacy center exceeds fundraising goal

Aurora's Dominican Literacy center has exceeded its 2020 GivingTuesday fundraising goal.

Sister Kathleen Ryan, center founder and executive director, said "Our goal was \$10,000 and we received \$10,300.

"All of us at the Dominican Literacy Center are deeply grateful to our donors, who so generously contributed to and supported our mission on Giving Tuesday. Their generosity was overwhelming.

"These donations will help us to continue to help immigrant families learn to read, write and speak English. God bless each and every one of you, and your loved ones."

GivingTuesday, an international 24-hour online campaign, was held Dec. 1. Founded in 2012, the drive is dedicated to encouraging people to make donations to charities, volunteer and generally support philanthropic efforts. Good deeds and inspiration for giving are spread through the hashtag on Twitter and curated on the organization's website.

Nationally, GivingTuesday donors in the United States gave \$2.47 billion, an amount that is more than all but one US philanthropic foundation gave in a full year during 2019. People worldwide participated in the global generosity movement through acts of kindness, volunteering and giving.

The GivingTuesday Data Commons estimates that 34.8 million people participated in GivingTuesday 2020, a 29% increase over 2019. Further, GivingTuesday reports total giving increased from \$1.97 billion to \$2.47 billion in the United States alone, representing a 25% increase compared to GivingTuesday 2019.

Sr. Ryan added, "This has been a difficult year for all, yet the Dominican Literacy Center's students have been determined to continue their education.

"The center's staff has done their best to meet students' needs by making safety accommodations for in-person lessons when allowed and by facilitating virtual lessons.

"It is inspiring to see how the center's staff, tutors and students have worked hard to continue on," Sr. Ryan said.

Founded in 1993, the center organizes female volunteer tutors to deliver free English classes to more than 150 immigrant women annually. Additionally, free citizenship classes are offered to both men and women.

The center's mission is to enable immigrant families to participate in their communities learning to read, write and speak English. The center has served more than 2,000 Aurora-area residents since its founding.

The Center has grown from five students and five teachers to 150 students from 16 countries taught by dedicated volunteer tutors each year. The center, at 260 Vermont Ave. in Aurora, is operated by the Dominican Sisters of Springfield.

Call (630) 898-4636 or visit dominicanliteracycenter.org for more information.

PHOTO: Dominican Sister Jane Beckman, left, teaches a student in a citizenship class offered by the Dominican Literacy Center in Aurora. (Center photo)

