



## Summer 2018



**Christa Hanson**  
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## What Happened in 1994?

1994 was only twenty-four years ago; however, if one looks at a snapshot of that year, it seems like an alien universe.

Consider this - IN 1994:

Bill Clinton was President of the U.S.

The average annual income was \$37,070.00.

The average cost of a gallon of gas was \$1.09.

The average cost of a new car was \$12,350.00.

The average cost of a dozen eggs was 85 cents.

Major League Baseball was on strike – so no baseball season.

Power Rangers was a popular toy.

Forrest Gump and The Lion King were two of the most popular movies.

The World Wide Web (aka the Internet) was born. There were no smartphones, no iPads, no flat-screen TVs, nor Google or Netflix.

The Learning and Loving Education Center opened on March 25, 1994. Twenty immigrant women came to the literacy center at St. Catherine's Old Hall. These twenty women, their little children, the Sisters of the Presentation and volunteers began the tradition that continues today, twenty-four years later. Were you a donor back then? Were you one of the important people, businesses, organizations, or foundations that helped this ministry grow into what it is today? It is today a bustling, effective, energetic, holistic learning center with five levels of ESL English classes, grammar classes, a book club, an empowerment/leadership class, a citizenship preparation class, computer/technology classes, nutrition classes, parenting workshops, HiSet (GED) preparation classes, personal counseling and guidance counseling, as well as yoga, art, knitting and sewing, plus a free daily food program. And even this year the Center was chosen as Morgan Hill's Non-Profit of the year for 2018. All this could not have happened without YOU!

We thank you for your generosity, your loyalty, your prayers, your support in so many varied ways. In March of this coming year 2019, we will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center. We are planning a gala event to thank you for helping to sustain and grow the Center through these past years. The Center has changed, too, since 1994, and we are grateful for all that has been, is, and will be in the future.



**Strong Women** ~ “One of the most courageous things you can do is identify yourself, know who you are, what you believe in and where you want to go.” Sheila Murray Bethel

May 23<sup>rd</sup> was the celebration of the women students’ achievements from this past year. The women are expected to attend at least 75 percent of the class sessions and to pass class assessments in order to qualify for the next level of classes. Certificates were given for all the ESL English levels, math, grammar, computer/technology, book club, empowerment/leadership, cooking for health, sewing, art, yoga and knitting. HiSet (GED) students also received certificates. The HiSet graduates will also receive a high school equivalency certificate on June 14 with students attending the Morgan Hill Community Adult School.



This year twenty women were enrolled at Gavilan College. We hope that even more women will go on to higher education. The ceremony was very touching, with photos taken of each level with the teacher. Each teacher received flowers. Thanks to special donors, three women were given scholarships to Gavilan: Sofia Gonzalez, Yadira Sanchez, and Ruth Sandoval. Congratulations! The graduation concluded with some expert, energetic dancing by our folkloric dance group Corazon Mexicano.



## Oh, the Places You’ll Go...

Dr. Seuss writes in his book “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” –  
 Congratulations!  
 Today is your day.  
 You’re off to Great Places!  
 You’re off and away!

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, nine of our preschoolers graduated and looked forward to a new chapter in their young lives. Kindergarten is awaiting them.

Oh, the Places They’ll Go:  
 Two are going to El Toro School  
 Three are going to Voices Academy.  
 One is going to Jackson School.  
 One is going to P. A. Walsh School.  
 One is going to Paradise Valley School.  
 One is going to St. Catherine School.

Ariana was excited about going to Kindergarten at St. Catherine School. She wanted to meet new teachers and make new friends. Miguel, who is going to Voices, was looking forward to the challenge. Skarlett, also going to Voices, said she was tired and was happy to rest for the summer before beginning her new adventure.

The children and families loved the video made of the children learning at the Center. They also enjoyed their traditional dance. We wish them the very best – as they go many places!





**“The Valley of Heart’s Delight”**

What a fabulous evening of celebrating with over 140 friends of the Center on March 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Catherine’s Parish Hall. A delicious dinner was catered by Macias Catering, musical entertainment by Rene Sevieri and Los Montoyos, folkloric dancing by Corazon Mexicano, a silent auction and wine heist all emceed by Mario Banuelos. Thank you to the three students who shared their heartfelt success stories. Thank you to the hardworking committee members, volunteers and women of the Center for the beautiful celebration and making this such a successful event.

**Hidden Talents?**

Your talents will not remain hidden if discovered by the Center! Obvious skills are teaching and tutoring and administrative work and supervising and playing with the preschool children. If we had to pay for this valuable gift of time and talent, we could not afford to keep the Center open.



YogaKids instructor (Linda Adleson) who teaches yoga to our preschoolers; a middle school student (Nicholas Kenny) who refurbishes used bicycles with friends and his Grandfather and who donates them to families at the Center; a mom and daughter (Diane and Nicole Harris) who continue their baking of birthday cakes for our preschoolers to share at the Center; a professional photographer (Paige Day

Photography) who donated her time and talent to photograph our graduating preschoolers and donated two prints to each family; a Bellarmine student (Anik Singh) who came to play a Monopoly game with our women students, teaching them verbal skills, math skills and business skills; students at the Center (too many to name) who cook and share their specialty foods with students and staff; students at the Center (so many artistic women) who created magnificent paper flowers for our special event...

Do any of these ideas inspire you?  
Do you have a hidden talent to share with us at the Center?

Believe me, your talent will be appreciated, and you will indeed make a difference.



**GIVING MADE EASY:**

We have made giving easy for you!  
Simply visit our website:  
[www.learningandloving.org](http://www.learningandloving.org) and click on the Donate button.

The click will take you to the Support and Donate page with three options available to donors:

- ♦ You may make a single donation in ANY amount.
- ♦ You can make a monthly recurring donation.
- ♦ You can become a member of the Giving Circle.
- ♦ You can double your donation with a MATCHING GIFT!

A simple “click” can make the day of a woman and child at the Learning and Loving Education Center!



**GIVING CIRCLE**

The Giving Circle invites you to invest in the women and children of the Learning and Loving Education Center by pledging an annual, renewable gift of \$1,500. This is the cost of educating a woman and her preschool child for one year. This covers the cost of supplies, books, teachers, preschool and all the funds it takes to operate the Center for one year. The \$1,500 breaks down to about \$4 a day. It’s a small amount, but it adds up to a great gift to each woman and child.

Thank you to the members of the Giving Circle who so generously donate each year. To join the Circle, please contact the Center at 408.776.1196 or [edctr@earthlink.net](mailto:edctr@earthlink.net). Or visit [www.learningandloving.org](http://www.learningandloving.org) and click on the Donate button on the Home Page.

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EDUCATION CENTER

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 3  
MORGAN HILL  
CA 95038



16890 Church St. #16  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
Phone 408-776-1196  
Fax 408-776-1130  
Email [edctr@earthlink.net](mailto:edctr@earthlink.net)  
[www.learningandloving.org](http://www.learningandloving.org)

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Summer 2018

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