

The Seed



“All those who are around me are the bridge to my success, so they are all important” Manny Pacquiao

This quotation could have been written by any one of us at the Center. The Learning and Loving Education Center is a bridge to the success of the immigrant women and children enrolled here. And what makes up the Center – why YOU, the reader, of course!

The staff, teachers, and volunteers are a bridge through their interacting, teaching, supporting, mentoring, caring. They are all important. The donors are a bridge through funding the running of the Center, granting the development of new programs, providing means for effective teaching and learning. They are all important. The Board members are a bridge through effective oversight, active involvement in the Center, creative energy and genuine care. They are all important. The businesses and organizations are a bridge through donations of all types, their interest and care of our students and a willingness to help them integrate into the community, and their overall generosity. They are all important.

Summer 2017



Christa Hanson
Executive Director

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Nurturing the SEEDS in South County Learning and Loving Education Center

It does take both sides to build a bridge. You have partnered with the Center to build your part of the bridge. Our students here have worked on building their side of the bridge: 185 immigrant and low-income women have studied hard, building their skills this year. This culminated in our recent achievement ceremony on May 24; they received certificates for ESL classes, math classes, grammar and writing classes, book club, computer classes, and even knitting, sewing and art classes. Five students received scholarships toward higher education, thanks to special donors. Twelve of our HiSet (GED) students received their high school equivalency certificates.



Twelve of our preschool children received their diplomas and will begin Kindergarten in the fall.

Congratulations to all our students, but also congratulations to all you bridge builders. Thank you for wanting to live, love, and build a just and peaceful society. Thank you for welcoming our women and children. Thank you for working together to build a bridge to a better life for them and their families. As the famous song of The Judd's says, *“Love can build a bridge... When we stand together, it's our finest hours. We can do anything, anything.”*

YOU ARE ALL IMPORTANT!



The Learning and Loving Education Center – that’s quite a name, one which often gets mixed up as “The Loving and Learning Center” or “The Living and Learning Center” or “the Loving and Living Center.” There are quite a few variations on a theme! We may not have been present when the name was thoughtfully contemplated and chosen. However, if we think of the Center in the following way – we might be able to articulate the correct name:



First and foremost, the Center is a place of literacy. There is a great need to learn English for the women and for their children. They need to retain and preserve their homeland language and heritage, but learning English is key to their success in the community. The women and children come to the Center to learn English and many other skills. So, the Center is a place of **LEARNING**.



The Center is also a place where women and children feel welcomed, accepted, supported, and loved for who they are and who they are becoming. There is a deep sense of community built during their time at the Center. They make friends, receive support and give support to others, laugh, cry and share together. So the Center, too, is a place of **LOVING**.

Simply put: it is the **LEARNING** and **LOVING** Education Center.



Spotlight on LLEC volunteer:

Natasha Wist – yoga instructor

Natasha has been a volunteer for the Learning and Loving Education Center for the past 15 years! She felt an immediate connection and love for both the unique program at the Center and past Director, Sister Pat Davis. She started off teaching a

Women’s Empowerment Class; a conversation and women’s study with an emphasis on women’s rights and conditions that many immigrant women face.

Natasha now teaches “Gentle Yoga”; a holistic yoga class that looks at the science of how the mind, body & spirit work together to keep us alive. Students focus on breathing, exercises in meditation & concentration, and learn yoga postures or Asanas. She also teaches students about Chakras, or energy centers within the human body. Many students share stories of their own healing.

Natasha is a retired school psychologist and family therapist, and her knowledge and years of experience have been an invaluable asset to **many** women and their children at the LLEC. She has been an advocate for parents whose children are having learning and behavioral problems and have difficulty communicating with the school.

Natasha lives in Hollister, where she leads a healthy lifestyle, teaching yoga twice a week at her home, and at the YMCA in Hollister. She enjoys juicing from fresh greens and canning local fruits! She maintains that yoga has been a healing force for her over the years. And lastly, that her volunteer work is part of her heart and soul work; that which makes her feel fulfilled and productive in her later years, and keeps her physically & mentally active!

Thank you, Natasha, for all you have done for the women and children of the Learning & Loving Education Center!

GIVING MADE EASY:

Maybe you’ve wanted to be able to make a monthly donation to the Learning and Loving Education Center, but you have trouble remembering to drag out that checkbook and send your donation off.

Well, we have made giving easy for you! Simply go to the homepage at 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; or you can make a monthly recurring donation; or you can become a member of the Giving Circle. And, you can double your donation with a **MATCHING GIFT!**

Check with your employer’s HR department to get the necessary paperwork to have your gift to the Center matched! A simple “click” can make the day of a woman and child at the Learning and Loving Education Center!

WISH LIST 2017

Toilet paper, paper towels
 Ground Coffee
 Plastic Coffee Stirrers
 Creamer (large containers)
 Sugar
 Box of Splenda (or similar non-sugar substitute)
 Paper cups (hot & cold)
 Small paper plates
 Paper bowls
 Napkins (for everyday use)
 Large jars of jelly
 Large jars of peanut butter
 Trash bags – 13 gallon
 Ziploc bags of all sizes
 Disinfectant wipes
 Dishwashing soap
 Liquid hand soap
 General cleaning supplies
 Flash drives
 Postage stamps: regular and post card
 8.5 x 11 copy paper – white
 Certificate paper (for graduation)
 No. 2 pencils
 Pocket folders
 Expo White Board Ink Pens and Cleaner (bottle and wipes)
 Gift cards, \$15/\$25 (Target, Walmart, Safeway...)
 Tape, glue sticks, construction paper, seasonal art kits for Preschool

What Your Donation Makes Possible

\$10 one flash drive
 \$25 one English book
 \$25 school supplies
 \$30 bus pass for one week
 \$70 one year's tuition
 \$75 computer books

A donation of \$1,500 educates a student at the LLEC (includes above supplies, cost to lease the building, and overhead costs.)

The Creative and Unique Ways Our Center is Supported

Daily we receive donations of clothing, toys, books, bedding, décor, kitchen utensils and dishes, and so much more.



A mother and daughter team bake birthday cakes for preschoolers to take home or share with their friends at school. Each cake is unique to that child's taste and decoration.

Easter baskets, flower pots, Christmas stockings, Thanksgiving baskets all make the holidays brighter.

This spring SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) South County conceived a new way to fund a continuing education scholarship for a woman at the Center. For May 13, they organized an author reception at BookSmart here in Morgan Hill. Laura Atkins, co-author of Fred Korematsu Speaks Up, was featured. Needless to say, the presentation was fantastic and informative! The event was so smoothly run, and extremely successful, bringing in \$2,380.00 for scholarships!



This was a remarkable event – not only because of its financial success – but because it was a literary event. What better way to sponsor our literacy Center than to stage a fundraiser in a book store and invite a local author to share her book on a very powerful topic (Japanese-American imprisonment during World War II) and one that speaks to today's challenges, too. Thank you to the members of SURJ, to BookSmart, and to all who could attend and support this fundraiser.

“The more that you read,
 The more things you will know,
 The more that you learn,
 The more places you will go.” Dr. Seuss

Who knows what other creative ideas will be born this coming year? Your grateful beneficiaries wait with anticipation and gratefulness.

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. Or visit www.learningandloving.org and click on the Donate button on the Home Page.

The
**LEARNING & LOVING
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