



# Corazón a Corazón

We Learn Together!

Volume 2, Issue I

Spring 2011

## A Letter from Our Director, Sr. Loretta



Dear Friends,

It is my delight to give you a report on our financial status at Corazón a Corazón for 2010. We have had many generous donors during the past year. And for this we are very grateful!

We have had our first event SUMMER-FEST...in July. It was basically for our small knit community here in the neighborhood as we entertained children and adults alike with games, balloons, a silent auction, antique cars and Food. We built a network of friends in the neighborhood with community involvement of businesses, the Police Dept who brought their horses, the local

Fire Dept who gave rides on the engine to the delight of many of the children and a jumping jack supplied by the City. Response to the raffle helped the fest be a financial success. A good time was had by all.

I want to say a special thank you for the many new donors to our cause and to repeat donors as well. It is good to see how people are so generous in a big and small ways in outreach to those in need. The stories we hear from those who are in our program make us realize that what we do here is truly God's work for the poor. It is your outreach as well.

Some of our adult students are finding that learning English is a way of better communicating with their children, realizing there is hope for better relationships in the workforce and finding better employment. Their desire for more education is leading some to ask for help with GED so they can obtain better jobs. The joy of teaching is to capture that "AHA" moment when the light goes on and the joy of learning is so welcomed.

It is **YOU** that are making that happen with your financial gifts, your gifts-in-kind, and your volunteer time. We have been able to hire an after-school coordinator, a volunteer coordinator and expand all of our programs, thanks to you!

How grateful we are!

S. Loretta and the Corazón a Corazón Staff

### Our Mission

Corazón a Corazón, under the sponsorship of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, serves as a catalyst for fundamental change in the community by providing individualized educational services to women and children at-risk.

### Corazón Board Members

- S. Miriam Patrick Cummings, SSND  
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- Mr. Ben Espinos  
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- S. Joan O'Connell, SSND  
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## Introducing Rev. Tracy Hughes, Our New After School Coordinator

**Rev. Tracy Hughes**, our new After School Coordinator, has served the United Church of Christ as an ordained minister since 1998. She brings years of educational and ministry experience with children, youth and families to Corazón a Corazón.

Hughes' diverse experience includes serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize, teaching English and physical education in an elementary school in East Jerusalem during seminary, being a parish minister in congregations in Ohio, and volunteering as a missionary on Christian peace and justice teams in Mexico,

Colombia, Palestine, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Hughes' call to Christian ministry is rooted in peacemaking and radical Christian discipleship.



Currently, she is a doctoral student at Catholic Theological Union focusing on multicultural ministries.

## Maria's Story



**Maria Castañeda** is an ESL student at Corazón a Corazón. She was also employed there from June 2010 to January 2011 as part of an Illinois Work Program. During that time, she functioned as a receptionist, answering phones and allowing students to enter the building for classes, doing some office work, and assisting tutors with

locating materials and resources.

While at Corazón, Maria has made remarkable progress. Early on in her employment, she would only respond to phone calls, doorbells and questions in Spanish. However, as she progressed in her ESL classes, she acquired enough confidence and vocabulary to respond to others easily in both English and Spanish. Now, she speaks candidly of her early struggles and subsequent growth to beginning ESL students and as a result has encouraged many to persevere in their classes. She inspires them by her exam-

ple of gently and simply progressing in English fluency.

As a receptionist at Corazón, she not only assisted students, but staff and tutors as well. In giving of herself, she was always ready to receive the friendship and efforts of others. She did not put on airs in her work, but listened with a smile and responded to all situations calmly and capably. In this way, she was an invaluable support for tutors when they had questions or needed resources. Though she is not currently working at Corazón, Maria still takes ESL classes and brightens everyone's day with her kind smile and quiet perseverance.

Maria's learning is not just limited to the classroom. She tries very hard to keep speaking English wherever she can, especially at home with her husband and children. She has a desire to continue in the work force but knows she needs a high school diploma or a GED certificate. Therefore, she will continue her progress by studying for the GED test. We wish her many blessings as she strives to enthusiastically help herself and others.

## It's a Small World Day Camp

Come and explore the cultures of the world from Monday, August 8 through Friday, August 12. This Day Camp will focus on learning about the lives of children in various countries represented by our guests.

The children who attend this program will experience languages, games, music and food as well as story telling from international students at Catholic

Theological Union and other universities and colleges in and around Chicago. If you are from another country and would like to participate, please contact us.

This is a new and exciting program to inspire fun during the dog days of August summer heat. Friday will end the week with a Friday Fun Day! This summer camp is limited to 20 students and the cost is free. Please call Tracy Hughes at 773-221-0620 or leave a message.

## Corazón in the Chicago Tribune

*The following article ran in the December 26, 2010 issue of the Chicago Tribune.*

### Corazón a Corazón: A tutoring plan with heart By Andy Grimm

In his four years since he moved to the U.S. from Honduras, William Serrano has figured out living the American dream requires speaking more than a little English.

Five months ago, he couldn't answer the phone at the garage where he works or talk to customers when his boss wasn't around.

But this fall, after struggling to find classes that fit his long work hours, Serrano, 24, began taking one-on-one lessons in English from Corazón a Corazón, a tutoring program with classrooms adjacent to St. Michael Catholic Church in the South Chicago neighborhood.

"When I first came here, I only know a couple of things," Serrano said. After his five months of tutoring, he was able to carry on a 20-minute, conversation about sports with instructor Sister Lupita Cordero.

"Now, I try to talk to the customers every day."

Since 2002, Corazón a Corazón has offered night-time classes in English and computer literacy, as well as an after-school tutoring program for children. Corazón a Corazón, which translates as "heart to heart," stresses one-to-one learning whenever possible, Executive Director Sister Loretta Rosendale said. The program is supported by Chicago Tribune Holiday Giving, a campaign of Chicago Tribune Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund.

On a weekday evening this month, Corazón has three sessions filled with adult learners recruited from South Side Catholic congregations and community groups, and by word of mouth.

"We could probably use another dozen tutors," Rosendale said.

Most tutors speak little Spanish themselves, and they are helped along by training from Cordero and a language learning computer program. The pricey Rosetta Stone software was a considerable, and successful, early investment for Corazón, Rosendale said.



Some students are young adults hoping English skills will improve their earning potential. Others include parents who want to be able to help their children with homework. Rosendale's favorite student was a 70-year-old grandfather.

"He said, 'Now that I'm retired, I want to be able to talk to my neighbors,' " Rosendale said.

One-to-one tutoring sessions build a relationship between student and tutor that helps overcome the fear of speaking a new language in front of groups, Rosendale said.

On a typical evening, the hallway at Corazón's offices is filled with soft voices haltingly reciting the sort of odd conversations that only exist in language textbooks.

Student Jose Lopez and tutor Danielle Kennedy work on the asking and answering of questions, emphasizing replacing simply "yes" and "no" answers with more conversational phrases such as "of course."

Lopez has mastered affirmative vocabulary words like "certainly" and "sure," but it seems he could use a little work learning when to say "no."

"Can I ask you a question?" says Kennedy, reading from a worksheet.

"Sure," Lopez replies, unscripted.

"Can Mrs. King plant a garden in your yard?"

"Sure."

"Really?" Kennedy asks, quickly realizing that he doesn't know the word "yard." He didn't have one in his native Jalisco, Mexico.

With a brief lesson on the concept that a yard is a grassy area near one's home, and also a unit of measurement, the conversation resumes.

"Can Mrs. King plant a garden in your yard?" Kennedy asks again.

"Not really," Lopez replies.

Recently, Serrano's bosses have noticed his improving language skills, and it's helping him advance at work.

"When my boss has to go somewhere, he gives the phone to me," Serrano said, smiling proudly. "Now I talk to the customers."

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# Annual Report 2010: Thank You to Our Many Benefactors!

Friends of Corazón a Corazón,

The following people are those who have gifted Corazón a Corazón between the dates of **January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010** with their gifts of time, treasure and talent. (2010 gifts must have been postmarked by December 31, 2010)

We are deeply grateful to these people who have reached out in friendship to Corazón a Corazón and given of themselves and their gifts. Please inform us if we have missed you.

## Donations of \$10,000+

Chicago Tribune Charities –  
Holiday Campaign, a fund  
of the McCormick  
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## Donations of \$5,000+

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 Mary Marcianna Bzdou, SSND  
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 Araceli Velasquez  
 Lorrita Verhey, SSND  
 Caritas Wehrman, SSND  
 Chris & Beverly Wong



## Thank You, S. Carolyn

Last November the Corazón Board bid farewell to Sister Carolyn, SSND, Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Sister Carolyn joined the Board of Corazón in 2005 and served as Chairperson from 2008-2010. As the Chairperson, she prepared for each meeting, planning the agenda so as to use our Board time well. She attracted new members to the Board.

Sister Carolyn knew and loved the mission of Corazón and wanted Corazón to grow steadily into a vibrant center with excellent, financially viable pro-

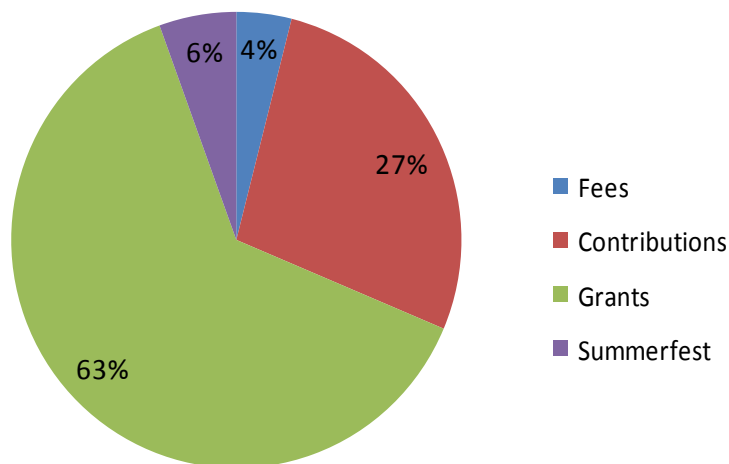
grams to meet the local needs. She knew well the real challenges Corazón faced during its time of transition to St. Michael Parish. She negotiated a lease with the Archdiocese.

Sister Carolyn chaired the committee to hire an Executive Director and facilitated a smooth transition to new leadership. In addition she helped institute a newsletter that would be published 2 times a year and chaired the silent auction for the first fundraiser, the Summer-Fest.

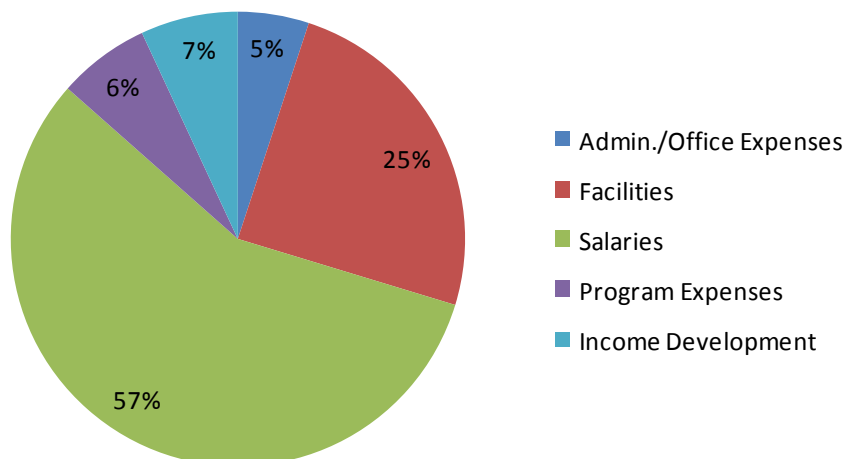
We are grateful to Sister Carolyn for her service to Corazón. The program is better because of her involvement.

## 2010 Income and Expenses

### 2010 income: \$106,186.62



### 2010 Expenses: \$126,621.86



Financially, our primary goal is to make Corazón financially stable. We hope to increase our donor contributions. Unfortunately, this year we did not bring in enough funding to cover all of our expenses. We had to dip into our saving to cover the \$20,435.24 deficit. We are hopeful that with the improving economy, our financial situation will improve in 2011.

Most of our expenses are to support our program. Our volunteer coordinator recruits and trains our 35+ tutors and our ESL coordination assesses and plans the curriculum for each learner.

We are grateful to the School Sisters of Notre Dame and to all the benefactors who help us carry on the Mission of Corazón.

## A Great Big "Thank You" to Our Staff and Volunteers

### Staff

Lupita Cordero, SSND  
Candace Ibaceta  
Loretta Rosendale, SSND  
Tracy Hughes

### Volunteer Tutors/Staff

Erin Aquino  
Paul Aquino  
Maria Barbarasa  
Virginia Bieren, SSND  
Alicia Bliznik  
Maria Castaneda  
Shannon Copp  
Anulfo Cortes  
Elsa Costa  
Maira Dawood  
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James Fifer  
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Lucia Gonzalez  
Larissa Hisatomi  
Gail Marie Johnson, SSND  
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Annie Markovich  
Phillip Martyn  
Barb Metzinger

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Jonathan Timm  
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Lupita Cordero, SSND  
Angelia Cortez  
Katie Davis  
Ben Espinos  
Rose Cecile Espinos, SSND  
Jackie Flight  
Larry Flight  
Rodney & Elaine Floyd

Lucy Giacchetti, SSND  
Cecilia Gonzalez  
Isabel Gonzalez  
Olivia Hernandez  
Gail Johnson, SSND  
Paul Johnstone  
Carolyn , SSND  
Kevin Kelly  
Robin McCarthy  
Carmelita Madison  
Barbara Metzinger  
Alice Mora  
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Maria Sandoval  
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Michael Smith  
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Joel Tapia  
Marta Tapia

## Welcome, S. Miriam Patrick

Like the compassionate School Sisters of Notre Dame who guided European immigrants into American society in the mid-1800s, their SSND descendants counsel Hispanic immigrants at Corazón a Corazón in 2011 Chicago.

And as she begins her term as chairperson of Corazón's board of directors, Sister Miriam Patrick Cummings sees SSND's role with the program as a spiritually genetic progression.

"There is a drastic need in our society today to respond to the needs of our Hispanic immigrants," she said. "It seems to be in our SSND 'DNA' to help our Hispanic friends to reach the fullness of their potential. Mother Theresa, SSND's founder, responded to the needs of her time in Germany, focusing on the education of young women. Then, in 1847, she sent Sisters to America to serve immigrant families—and later to supervise the formal education of their daughters. Since the beginning of our history, SSND has responded to 'current' needs."

For decades, the School Sisters instructed students in crowded school classrooms across Chicago. With fewer Sisters available today, their approach has become more personal. At Corazón, it is often one-on-one—from Sisters, other staff members and volunteers. Adult clients in the South Shore-based program receive instruction in English as a second language and computer literacy. An after-school program provides tutoring for children.

Sister Miriam Patrick sees Corazón a Corazón as a blessing for all concerned.

"I think many values are involved," she said. "Obviously, the services offered are important,



*(Continued on page 8)*

but equally worthwhile are relationships fostered through mutual respect.

Not only do the clients benefit, but I believe the staff and volunteers receive the gift of a shared experience as well. Corazón a Corazón can be a beacon of hope to its neighborhood.”

Although aware of the challenges that await her due to the current economy, Corazón’s new board chairperson looks forward to working with the director, staff and board members to expand the ministry as the needs of the community increase.

“We always need volunteers, mentors and, of course, financial help,” Sister Miriam Patrick said. “This is not a tuition- or fee-based project. We rely on the support of donors and grants.”

She hopes all those who benefited from SSND’s

caring discipline in the past will lend willing hands to this current need: “Our presence now is largely through those we educated and the values we fostered. However, those values need to be nourished, and I hope the knowledge that SSND continues to serve the Chicago area may remind our former students of those values—reaching out to others in response to our faith—and prompt them to join in our endeavors.

“I stand on the shoulders of those who envisioned Corazón and worked so hard to get it off the ground, some of whom are still actively involved. The late Sister Helen Joseph Leffner, SSND, a dedicated staff member for several years, now serves as our Heavenly advocate. I am proud to help continue the work and will do my best to honor their commitment.”

## Summer School 2011

The Summer School program at Corazón a Corazón will begin Monday, June 27 and end on Friday, July 22, 2011. Each day we will meet from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The morning will be split into two sections: 1 ½ hours focused on math and 1 ½ hours of reading and language arts with a 30 minute break.

Summer 2011 brings an exciting addition to the Summer School program: Friday Fun Days! Friday Fun Days will be from 9:00-12:30. We will do different enrichment and recreation activities each Friday. We ask that parents



or guardians send CTA passes with the children on Fridays so that we can go to Lincoln Park Zoo and various museums. We will take advantage of the City Parks system and play out door games. We hope to attend Movies in the Park at least twice during Summer School dates depending on movie listings yet to be posted by the City Parks programs.

The entire program costs \$140 for the first student from one family. If there is more than one student from one family the cost for additional students will be \$50 per child. Corazón a Corazón offers a limited number of scholarships for students to participate in Summer School. Summer School has the capacity for 20 students and the spaces will be based on the first 20 registrations that are received. *The registration deadline is May 17. Please make an appointment to come to Corazón a Corazón to register your child and take a pre-test before May 17, 2011.* A child will not be permitted to begin the program without first completing a pre-test to monitor your child’s needs and improvements.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Corazón a Corazón offers our excellent programming to children and youth through the time and talent of volunteers from across Chicago. We are in need of 20 tutors for the Summer School program who can commit to come Monday through Friday from 8:30-12:30am. Each tutor will be matched with one student so that you can provide a constant presence with the child as they learn and develop new skills during Summer School. It’s a Small World Day Camp will also require volunteers.

Corazón a Corazón  
8235 S. South Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60617  
773-221-0620 (phone)  
[www.corazon-chicago.com](http://www.corazon-chicago.com)



All contributions to Corazón are tax deductible and directly support our programs. Please consider a donation.