



Corazón a Corazón

We Learn Together!

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall 2011

Having Fun at Summer Achievement Camp

Our Summer Achievement Camp was a great success. In attendance were 37 elementary and middle school campers, nine university interns, and four high school volunteers as part of this exciting summer program. The academic program focused on basic reading skills and math skills throughout the morning.

Friday, July 1, the 5th graders, who read *Treasure Island*, led a treasure hunt including a treasure map, treasure chests full of goodies and pirate costumes for our younger classes. The 2nd graders were seen carrying their pirate treasures home in their lunch boxes. Mariel, an intern teacher for the 5th Grade, remarked, "I felt proud watching the 5th graders working together."

Friday, July 8, mentors from the South Chicago YMCA Street Intervention Program shared the day with our campers. This was an outstanding day of conversation, role plays and art work about avoiding gangs and how to make smart choices in tough situations. The 6th and 7th graders put on a powerful role play about what it is like to walk home from school and encounter a gang fight and other street violence.



This great group of campers also wrote and produced, "Listen Everybody," Corazón a Corazón's first-ever theme song.

Tuesday, July 19 found all of our campers and interns at The Grove Environmental Day Camp learning about amphibians, other slimy creatures and how Native Ameri-

cans relate to Mother Earth. The campers learned how to better care for the environment.

In the final week of camp we visited the Brookfield Zoo and enjoyed a Luau at Corazón since we were rained out at Rainbow Beach.



The summer program was not only academic and fun but helped students know how to make good life choices.

Comments from a few of our Intern Teachers

Chelsea Goldsmith, Wesleyan University, commented, "Teaching at Corazón is the most challenging thing I have ever done, and by far the most rewarding."

Nelida Garcia, Harvard University, "This experience has proved to be an amazing learning experience not only for the kids, but for myself as well. From creating fun lesson plans to interacting with energetic third graders, this internship has far surpassed my expectations."

Jinal Patel, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, "One of the unique aspects of Corazón is the excitement and enthusiasm that the children bring to summer camp each day. It is interesting to see the creativity they have. I also love the feeling of the children returning to class the next day with their spelling words memorized and math concepts learned. This shows that they have potential to learn and grow in the summer achievement camp offered at Corazón."

Corazón's ESL Program

The students at Corazón come from Honduras, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Peru and Mexico. This year the number of students at Corazón was the highest ever with 80 students participating in the program. One-on-one classes are offered Monday through Thursday. Each student has tutoring for one hour. Some students come only once a week, others come several times a week. The program is computer-driven with the Rosetta Stone Program. It is an excellent individual teaching tool for languages.

The 45 volunteer tutors give at least one hour per week, some give a full day (9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday & Thursday and 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday) of their time to tutor our eager students. Each tutor must complete 12 hours of training before they begin teaching.

We are truly blessed with the creativity and true interest in our students that our tutors bring to the program. Some of our students and tutors shared cooking lessons in English and took time to cook and share the results with everyone present that day. Other tutors used their expertise in citi-

zenship to help our students prepare to become U.S. Citizens.

Our students' employers support us by making sure their employees leave promptly on certain days so they can arrive at class on time.

It is very important that we are also supported by the student's family. You can learn a language only when you practice it outside the classroom. A bonus of our program is that it is one-on-one learning experience and is available to women during the day while their children are in school.



Key motivation for many of our women students is the desire and need to help their children with school work and the ability to speak with teachers without an interpreter. Education is power!

Fall After-School Program

The 2011-2012 After-School Program will start in early October. Corazón a Corazón offers small group and one on one tutoring for students between kindergarten and 8th grade. We hope to strengthen



our program by securing 20 adult tutors who will commit to at least 2 days per week from 2:30-5:30pm.

The atmosphere is energetic, full of the student enthusiasm for learning and the tutor creativity in helping them succeed.

Our first goal is to open the program year with at least 10 committed tutors for each week so that

we can accept interested students. The second goal of this program year is to provide a healthy snack immediately after school and a short outdoor game time for the students to burn off some of their energy before focusing on their homework. A final goal is to invite outside speakers from the wider south Chicago neighborhoods and honor their gifts and talents with our students. We would welcome artists, drama coaches, chess teachers, song writers and musicians, historians, drum core members, honor role athletes, and other successful high school and college students to share how they reach their goals and dreams.

Please spread the word that the After School Program at Corazón a Corazón is accepting applications for volunteers to be tutors and mentors to elementary school students. We look forward to receiving applications from teachers, retired teachers, university and high school students and other adults who would like to make a positive change in the lives of young people. Contact Tracy Hughes or Candice Ibaceta at Corazón a Corazón to apply to volunteer.

Claiming the Fire Within Retreat



In June the School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Atlantic-Midwest Province held a retreat in Malvern PA for personnel of their sponsored ministries throughout the

Province. Three people from Corazón a Corazón attended, Tracy Hughes, After-School Coordinator, Luis Rojas and Rosa Perea, members of the Board.

“I am so glad that I had the opportunity to attend the retreat,” said Rosa. “Learning about the charism of SSND was the most beneficial and interesting aspect of the weekend.”

Shared Tracy, “Through her letters we were introduced to SSND foundress, Blessed Mary Theresa Gerhardinger. She and Mother Caroline Freiss came to America in 1847 to take on the task of opening many new schools and orphanages. I truly admired the passion and love they both had for the poor.”

Luis really enjoyed the last day of the retreat. “I was able to see and learn through activities, readings and presentations the love and dedication of the Sisters, and everyone that works through the mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.”

Fun at “It’s a Small World” Camp



Mark teaches campers about traditional drums from Ghana, West Africa.

Our 18 campers enjoyed learning about Ghana, India and Philippines from our special guests. Working in 5 small groups, our campers developed their research skills search engines and books from our library. On the last

day of camp they had a great time presenting their research projects on Italy, Angola, Brazil, China and Germany.



Jinal teaches campers about traditions from Northern India.

Thank You, Board Members!

It is with deep appreciation that we say thank you to Sister Joan O’Connell, SSND, and Ben Espinos for their many years of service to the Corazón a Corazón Board of Directors. Although no longer Board Members, both Sister Joan and Ben remain faithful supporters of Corazón and its mission. Sister Joan continues to share her expertise as treasurer of Corazón and we continue to rely on Ben and

count on his many talents as we seek to expand our horizons.

As the Board bids them farewell we say with grateful hearts, “May God reward you, Ben and Sister Joan, for all you have shared over the years. May the concern you have shown in this outreach to others be a source of great blessings to you, now and in eternity. On behalf of the Board, the Director, the Staff and family of Corazón – THANK YOU! ~Sister Miriam Patrick Cummings, Chair



To volunteer as a tutor or share your ideas about helping Corazón, please call S. Loretta Rosendale, SSND, Corazón Director at 773-221-0620.



Our Mission

Under the sponsorship of the School Sisters of Notre Dame Corazón a Corazón provides a supportive environment which enables and assists adults and children in their personal and educational development with a focus on Hispanic women and children.

The enclosed envelope is for your convenience in helping us support the operating budget of Corazón. This includes the ESL Program and the After-School Program.

We appreciate your assistance.

A Special Message for AOL Alumnae

Dear Fellow AOL Alumnae,

This issue of the Corazón a Corazón newsletter is sent to you as part of the AOL family. It relates a small portion of what is being accomplished through what I believe to be "AOL LIVES ON. It tells of the continued mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame to educate in the hope of transforming society, one person at a time; a goal of AOL for over 125 years, a goal that helped us be where we are today.

Some of you may not be aware that when AOL (regretfully) was closed, the SSND's sought a way of maintaining a presence and mission on the South Side of Chicago. After much consultation, ministry to the ever increasing Hispanic population was deemed the best way to do so.

Money from the sale of AOL was used to initiate and support this initiative. Now we rely on the generosity of good people like you who share that goal. If you believe that a good education helped you to care for yourself and your loved ones with a little to spare, would you be willing to make a contribution that others may have the same?

God bless you,

Sister Miriam Patrick Cummings '49
Chair, Corazón a Corazón Board of Directors



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