Friday, March 20, 2020

Dear supporters,

You recently purchase (x) tickets to our “Celebrating Latino Parents – the First Teachers” luncheon that was scheduled for April 23rd. Due to rising concern about the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon and Governor Brown’s executive order to limit all public gatherings to 25 people, we have cancelled our Annual luncheon. We were in the process of making plans to do a live streaming event when it became apparent that even a small group gathering would not be prudent.

Our decision to cancel, rather than reschedule the luncheon, comes after watching the rapidly changing circumstances in our community in the last 10 days, and the trajectory of the pandemic in other communities. There is no way to predict when it would be safe to start having large gatherings and celebrations again.

We have taken every precaution to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by having our staff work remotely and by cancelling our programs and workshops. With the cancellation of our programs, we have been actively working on a plan to continue providing services to our Latino families remotely. We will begin Tuesday, March 24th to call 200 families or more to check in, to assess their access to internet and phone services, the availability of computer or tablet devices, and their need for books, art materials and learning activities for their children stuck at home. We are collecting donations and buying books and supplies, and we will deliver, or provide for pick-up, boxes of these supplies for each family. Finally, we will assess their need for parenting advice and encouragement, and instructional coaching for continuing their children’s learning at home.

We are establishing weekly check-ins and coaching by phone for Parents that need and desire this service. We will teach lessons from our classes one-on-one if necessary, and we are hoping to make video lessons to provide to families also. Meanwhile, families have already been reaching out to our facilitators with basic needs requests and we have been referring them to other social services. We have even delivered a few food boxes from Mano a Mano Family Center for families that had no transportation and had never accessed the food box system before.

We rely on our annual luncheon to bring in contributions to help support our programs and services, and this pandemic is causing a financial setback that is requiring us to rethink the way we provide our services. Children do not have access to school libraries, computer labs, learning materials and art supplies. We predict an additional need for those educational tools and materials. We are planning on purchasing equipment and materials that were not otherwise budgeted.

We would like to ask you during this difficult time to convert your ($$$) reservation to a donation to SKCE, and we will send you a tax-exempt donation letter reflecting the amount. If you would like to
make an additional contribution, please visit www.skcequality.org or scan this QR Code with your phone. This would be an excellent time to become part of our sustaining donors by setting up a monthly contribution!

If you would rather have a refund instead of making a donation, please email Miriam Cummins at mcummins@skcequality.org. Please include full name/organization and address. Keep in mind that if you request a refund, please allow 30 days for processing.

Thank you so much and we greatly appreciate all of your support.

Sincerely,

Annalivia Palazzo-Angulo

Annalivia Palazzo-Angulo, Executive Director (Name and Title)

PS: Please visit our website periodically to see how we are serving families and how you as a supporter can help our organization during this difficult time.