Adelante Mujeres

WINTER 2016

Every gift you give allows us to do more!

Thank you for investing in Adelante! Your year-end giving has put us on solid footing as we begin 2016. With a committed and passionate team of donors like you, we are building a community where all families thrive.

Why do <u>you</u> give to Adelante?

Here is what some of you have said:

"I have seen Adelante's mission come to life with my own eyes. . . . **I have seen Latina women become stable and empowered, giving back to their communities** and becoming the leaders they were always destined to be."
~Christina Alquisira, Gladstone Center for Children and Families

"We support Adelante Mujeres because it focuses on helping Latina girls and women improve their quality of life by giving them the **skills, education, and confidence** to access all the opportunities that come their way."
~Dick Stenson, Retired CEO of Tuality Healthcare

"We give to Adelante Mujeres because it is a well respected nonprofit full of dedicated staff that serves people in our community. **We feel so fortunate to have all of these educational programs in our midst.** Also, we are happy that Todd's employer in town, ABR, matches our donation!"
~Elaine Cole, PCC, and Todd Mabee, ABR

<u>Why do you give?</u> Let us know on Facebook or Twitter! **#AdelanteGiving**

Save the Date!

FIESTA OF HOPE

Presented by:

COMCAST

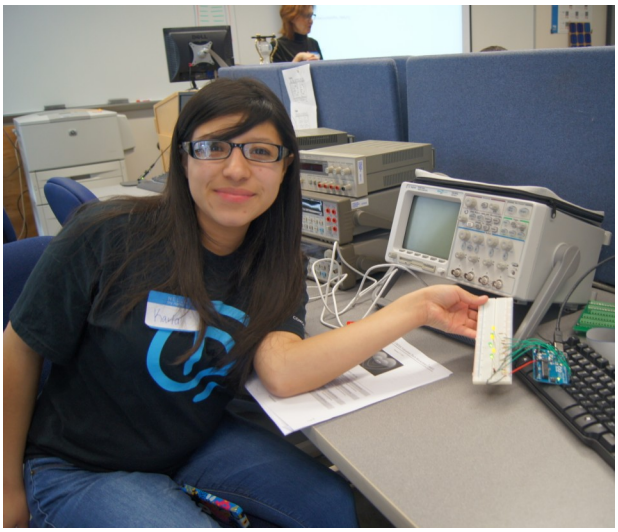
April 16, 2016
Oregon Zoo

Register Online:
AdelanteMujeres.org

Exploring technology empowers young Latinas

As a junior in high school, Karla Zamora was struggling. Her grades were not good and she was behind on credits. She was quiet and shy. During her first two and a half years of high school, Karla had never once participated in an after-school activity.

But then her friends encouraged her to join Comcast Digital Connectors, a program offered through our Chicas Youth Development Program in partnership with Comcast. This digital literacy program helps young adults from diverse low-income backgrounds use technology to change themselves, their communities, and their world.



Comcast Digital Connectors, in partnership with our Chicas Youth Development Program, helped Karla become more interested in school and after-school activities.

Karla is now back on track to graduate this spring. And she is determined to go to college.

Last year, Karla, along with 16 other Chicas students, committed to the seven-month training program that included weekly sessions and 56 hours of community service.

As Karla began to immerse herself in learning about technology, the impact of Digital Connectors became clear to those around her. Karla began to see all of the things that she is capable of. Her confidence grew. And she became more interested in school.

Last summer, Karla presented a workshop on internet safety to other student groups. She also volunteered at the public library helping patrons with computers. These experiences have inspired her. She now wants to become a teacher.

Karla's success with Comcast Digital Connectors has also inspired her to join other programs at her school. She joined the school dance and tennis teams, and became involved with IGNITE, a program that will help her fulfill her dream of a career in education.

At the Digital Connectors graduation ceremony, Karla felt proud as she walked up to get her certificate. But the best moment was when she looked back at her parents, "I saw my parents, and I could see that they were proud of me and what I have accomplished."

Although Karla graduated from Comcast Digital Connectors, she hasn't completely left the program. This year, her senior year, she is volunteering as a mentor and advisor, using her experience to guide and advise new Digital Connectors students.

Karla is now back on track to graduate from high school this spring. And she is determined to go to college. With the help of Chicas staff, she is working on college applications – another step on her journey to becoming a teacher.

Thank you Comcast for supporting the education and empowerment of young Latinas like Karla!

COMCAST

Comcast is also our Presenting Sponsor for Fiesta of Hope ~ April 16, 2016 Thank you, Comcast!

Learning to read at the age of 52? Think it can't be done?

Thanks to you, Josefina proves it can

Because you believe in the power of education and support our programs, Josefina (left) was able to learn to read with one-on-one support from her teacher, Yasi.

Josefina Mendoza was 52 years old and couldn't read. Because she spent most of her childhood in Mexico working on the family farm, she never learned how to read. She never learned to hold a pencil. And she never held a crayon to draw.

At the age of 41, Josefina and her family came to the United States. Without a community to support her, and because she didn't speak English, she spent most of her time at home, taking care of her husband and sons. But because of your support, Josefina was able to make a change.

Three years ago, she learned about the programs at Adelante Mujeres. She started taking gardening classes through our Sustainable Agriculture Program, and then became a childcare volunteer.

But Josefina wanted to read. She knew that reading would open up a whole new world for her. She wanted to keep volunteering with children, be able to read to them, and teach them letters and sounds. Josefina knew that Adelante had an education program for women like her, but she was afraid to enroll. She worried that she would be far behind the other students and would require extra help.

On her own, Josefina tried to review the few letters and sounds that she knew. "It was so hard," Josefina says. "I cried every day, sitting at the table alone, trying to practice each letter and sound.'"

She prayed that if she tried our Adult Education classes, there would be someone who could work with her on reading, one on one.

> **"Josefina was ready, and she really wanted to learn."**
>
> Yasi Lemus-Isla, Adult Education Program Coordinator

Because of your support, her prayer was answered. When Josefina enrolled, our Adult Education Coordinator, Yasi Lemus-Isla, began giving her the individual attention she needed. At first, Josefina was scared and embarrassed. But Yasi's generous spirit and patient approach encouraged her.

"Josefina was ready, and she really wanted to learn," says Yasi. Josefina quickly learned the basic letters and sounds. Later, the pace slowed for more complicated combinations. Josefina reviewed them every night at home, and continued to improve, little by little.

After three months of study, Josefina and Yasi really saw learning take hold when Josefina was able to read aloud the four page poem *Los zapaticos de rosa* (*The Little Pink Shoes*).

"When she read the poem, we both cried," says Yasi. They cried not only because Josefina was able to read the whole poem, but also because she was visibly moved by its beautiful message of generosity. Josefina had just experienced reading literature for the first time.

Learning to read has opened other doors for Josefina as well. She can now read and send text messages, and she can read subtitles of movies on television.

Josefina is proud of her accomplishments. And with her new teachers, friends and classmates, she no longer feels like she is here all alone. "My husband says, 'it's like you are in Mexico again, you have so many friends.'"

Josefina looks forward to learning to write, which presents its own challenges because her hand is not accustomed to holding a pencil. She would also love to learn English. With your continued support, Josefina will continue her classes and pursue these goals.

Volunteer Julie DeMonico makes learning fun

In the spring of 2012, Julie DeMonico was looking for a way to support the Latino immigrant community. She was drawn to Adelante Mujeres because of the diverse nature of our programs.

Because of her interest in organic gardening, she started out volunteering in the Sustainable Agriculture Program, working in the garden demonstration plot. The next fall, she began volunteering in our preschool, drawing on her past experience working with children as a speech pathologist.

Julie is now in her fourth year working with the preschool kids in our Early Childhood Education Program, and she loves it.

"I focus on supporting English language development by being aware of the developmental stages of the children. We read books tailored to their English and developmental levels. We play games to give them a fun context to practice vocabulary and grammar, such as pronouns and question words."

She enjoys watching our young students progressing year after year as their English language skills improve. She wants them to be comfortable and confident with an English speaking teacher when they start kindergarten.

Julie also enjoys the sense of community she has found at Adelante Mujeres. "**I keep coming back because of the families and the staff," Julie says. "They have been so warm and welcoming."**

Because of your donations, and support from volunteers like Julie, our preschool students are ready when they get to kindergarten.

Thank you, Julie, for your work with our preschoolers. With your help, these kids are on their way to academic success in kindergarten and beyond.

Since its founding in 2002, Adelante Mujeres has relied on volunteers and donors to sustain our organization. With the support of people like you, we are providing comprehensive services to over 600 families this year. Thanks to you, Adelante Mujeres is making a huge impact in our community.

If you are interested in getting more involved with Adelante Mujeres, please contact us!

ADELANTE MUJERES

EDUCATION • EMPOWERMENT • ENTERPRISE

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