

Power of Two



At Mothers' Club Family Learning Center, we believe in **The Power of Two** – the idea that when both parent and child increase their education simultaneously, the whole family has a better chance to succeed in school and in life. **The Power of Two is at the heart of all our programs and services for families in Pasadena.**

Each day, more than 100 families walk through our doors. But parents don't simply drop their kids off and leave. While children are engaged in learning activities under the care of our teachers, parents participate in their own enrichment programs. They learn English, take parenting classes, develop leadership skills, and improve their health and wellness.

This March, our most dedicated donors and supporters joined us for a **special night out at local restaurant Bistro 45 to celebrate The Power of Two.** In addition to raising much needed funds to support our mission and programs, we were able to present the annual Power of Two Award to very worthy individuals.

Dr. Celia Ayala, CEO of LAUP, is a staunch advocate for access to quality and affordable preschool for all families. We were honored to recognize

her commitment to the values of two-generation learning and early education.

The Power of Two is perhaps most potently conveyed by hearing from participants themselves. **Maria Leticia Garcia and Gerardo Guzman** are Mothers' Club parents with three boys, two of whom attended Mothers' Club. Their family has fully embraced the Power of Two by participating in every activity, opportunity, and experience offered. This May, when their youngest son graduates from PreK, Leticia will receive her high school diploma from Pasadena City College. We salute their commitment and determination.

Thank you for joining us on March 12th to celebrate The Power of Two and congratulate our honored guests. If you were unable to attend but would like to show your support - **please consider sending a donation in the enclosed envelope or donating online at www.mothersclub.org.**

Every quarter, we publish our newsletter – The Power of Two. This **special edition** highlights the strength of our two-generation approach while simultaneously reporting on the current highlights and happenings at our center.

We hope you enjoy reading!

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Bistro 45
Representative Judy Chu, 27th District
Development Committee
Leticia Garcia & Gerardo Guzman
Mara Leong-Nichols
Lara Nassar
Abby Valdovinos

A Letter from the Executive Director



This January, Mothers' Club Family Learning Center received national recognition from the **National Head Start Association's Two Generations Together Initiative** for our partnership with **Pacific Clinics Early Head Start**.

To provide some background information, Pacific Clinics is the Early Head Start provider for Pasadena. Through our partnership, Early Head Start is provided on-site at the Mothers' Club facility, and is complemented by our comprehensive programming for parents. Mothers' Club currently serves 123 children, 40 of whom are funded by Pacific Clinics Early Head Start.

Six programs from across the country were recognized for creating exemplary two-generation opportunities for children and parents; Mothers' Club was the only agency from California! I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with other leaders and advocates focusing on the future of the whole family.

Alongside the Divisional Director of Pacific Clinics Early Head Start, Wassy Tesfa, I addressed an audience of 200 national Head Start leaders to tell them about our program and our approach of simultaneously educating both parent and child. I was also able to see what other programs are doing.

I've got to tell you, **Mothers' Club is doing something right**. Other organizations focus on early learning or adult education and then add supplemental services that benefit both generations. **But at Mothers' Club, two-generation learning is all we do**. It influences every aspect of our programming. Themes are linked between the curriculum for parents and children. We regularly plan and engage in parent-child interactive activities and make sure that what children are learning in the classroom is then reflected in the home environment.

The Two Generations Together Initiative shined a light on what locally-designed, successful programs can look like. In addition, it informed policymakers and stakeholders about how strong policies and local flexibility can achieve great things when programs are created and implemented in partnership with families. Mothers' Club is happy to lend our voice to this important national dialogue and looks forward to continuing our advocacy.

Hector LaFarga, Jr.
Executive Director



 **LAUP** is honored to be
part of the Power of Two.

Congratulations,
Mothers' Club
and Dr. Ayala!



LAUP.net

Descanso Gardens

salutes

Mothers' Club Family Learning Center



Descanso Gardens

{ beautiful in every season }



*Thank you for educating
and empowering families
in our community.*

Outlook
NEWSPAPERS

A Special Night Out Celebrating The Power of Two - March 12, 2015



Executive Director Hector LaFarga, Jr., honoree Dr. Celia Ayala, Congresswoman Judy Chu, and Mothers' Club participants, Leticia Garcia and Gerardo Guzman



Julie Ward, Board Member, and Susan Kujawa, former Executive Director



Hector LaFarga, Jr. speaks to guests at the Power of Two dinner.

We join in expressing heartfelt gratitude for the significant accomplishments of Celia C. Ayala, Ph.D.

Bill and Claire Bogaard



Susan Stannard, Board Member Nurit Kotick, Tina Ivie, and Gabriela Neufeld

Celebrating the Power of Two and the Power of Mothers' Club!

Ms. Norah Morley & Dr. Anthony Koerner

The Probert Family is proud to support the Power of Two!

Louise & Greg Probert



Learning Works charter school is honored to be your community partner! We are thankful for all that you do to brighten the future of our teen parents through weekly parenting classes, monthly ELAC meetings and Summer Institute.

**90 N. Daisy Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107
626-564-2871**

For more information, talk to Monica Reyes





Hector LaFarga, Jr., Rep. Judy Chu, and Dr. Celia Ayala


FRAN NORRIS SCOBLE
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Randy & Judy Wilson love Mothers' Club!

Congratulations to
Mothers' Club
 for your important work, and thank you for
 welcoming
 Westridge girls
 to assist in your efforts.


WESTRIDGE SCHOOL



Above: Board Member Judy Brown, Susan Futterman, and Arnold Siegel



Left: Development Manager Mara Leong-Nichols and Sarah Orth

Congratulations to
 Mothers' Club Family Learning Center
 and Dr. Celia Ayala

 for their continued service to the
 Pasadena community

 Our best wishes,
Margaret & David Mgrublian

Support for The Power of Two in memory of
 my beloved husband, Marshall B. Katz

Francine Hokin Katz

Best wishes and thanks to the wonderful people at
 Mothers' Club!

Mona Field

Two Generations Learning Together - A Family's Story

Maria Leticia Garcia (Mother)

My name is **Maria Leticia Garcia**. My husband, Gerardo Guzman, and I have three children: Gerardo Jr. is 13, Giovanni is 8, and Gael is 4. Our youngest two have gone to Mothers' Club. We started when Giovanni was a toddler. This is my last year. Gael will graduate from the Afternoon PreK Class in June.

I am sad to leave but have learned a lot from the classes and staff at Mothers' Club. I have had many good experiences and made great friends. **I have learned to be a leader in my community.** At Mothers' Club, I was a Classroom Representative for many years, I was on the Parent Advisory Council as Treasurer, and I served on many committees. This experience has helped me learn how to work with people and complete projects.

Now, I am very involved in my community. I am a classroom helper at Giovanni's school, a soccer mom, I volunteer at church, I am the secretary at my son's tutoring center, and I help at Boy Scouts. **I am happy to say that this May I will be getting my high school diploma from Pasadena City College.** I see a bright future for me and my family. I want to be a Medical Assistant and I know that I will find a way to complete this dream. **I am grateful for everything that I learned at Mothers' Club.**



Gerardo Guzman with his son, Gael, as a toddler

Gerardo Guzman (Father)

My name is **Gerardo Guzman** and I would like to share **the father's side of Mothers' Club.**

My wife and I have been married for 15 years. We come from the same city in Mexico but we did not get married until we were in the United States. We came looking for a better life. In our country the opportunities to make a better life are limited.

I see Mothers' Club as a trampoline that gave my wife a lift so she could pursue her dreams. But I also see how much it has affected me.

When we had our first child, Gerardo Jr., we were scared. Leti never left the apartment and Gerardo Jr. was always inside – this was not good for our family. I knew my wife was lonely and I tried to help but every day I had to leave them and go to work. **Leti heard about a place where you could get an education and bring your baby.** At this time, we had our second child, Giovanni. I saw Leti make friends. She started getting involved in classes and other activities. She would bring home information about parenting or tell me about workshops she attended. Sometimes, when I dropped off my son, **I saw how much he was growing.** How different his experiences were in comparison to my first child.

I participated in fathers' nights or back to school events. Leti and I went to a communication workshop for couples that helped me understand better ways to talk to my children. I saw my family growing and becoming more independent and confident.

Most people think that the

mom and child are the only ones affected by the Mothers' Club program, but really, the whole family is affected. For me, Mothers' Club showed me how to not be scared as a father and as a worker. The program helped open my eyes to what is around me. As a father, I learned not to do everything for my children. I need to let them learn through experiences but be there when they need me. The boys and I talk all the time about everything. I encourage them to do well in school. **I tell them that education is the key to success.**

Personally, I learned that we can do many things and to not let fear limit me. I used to feel unable to approach English speaking people or to try new things – I felt intimidated.

Then I began to help at the **Fall Food & Wine Festival.** That experience helped me to see that I was able to talk to businessmen and ladies and not be intimidated. At these events, I was given the opportunity to supervise other fathers and felt good about helping this agency. In the last couple of years I was able to get a job in a restaurant and **now I am the supervisor.** This is a big challenge but I know that I can do it.

I know that we are the role models for our children. For now I am encouraging my wife in her education. I hope to be able to return to school. I want to be prepared for all the opportunities that I can reach. **I want my children to be proud of me.**

I want to thank you for supporting Mothers' Club and making it possible to have a safe place for families. Mothers' Club affects the whole family.



Leticia Garcia (second from left) with other moms earning their high school diplomas

Thank You to the Mothers' Club Guardians

The *Guardians* provide sustaining support for our programs and operations by donating \$1,000 or more to our annual fund.

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Alice & Bing Yang

Join Us for a Tour

The best way to learn about what happens at Mothers' Club is to visit our Center and take a guided tour with staff.

Upcoming Tours:

Tuesday, April 7 - 9am
Thursday, April 16 - 11:30am
Tuesday, May 5 - 9am
Thursday, May 14 - 11:30am
Tuesday, June 2 - 9am
Thursday, June 18 - 11:30am

To RSVP or for more information call (626) 792-2687 ext. 122 or email mara@mothersclub.org

Thank you to our foundation partners for their recent grant awards

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Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Ethel J. Scantland Foundation
Fitzberg Foundation
Foundation of San Marino Community Church
Goodwin Memorial Fund
Los Angeles Times Family Fund, A Fund of the McCormick Foundation
Pasadena Child Health Foundation
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Our programs are funded in part by the following agencies:

Pacific Clinics, Early Head Start

LAUP

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program

City of Pasadena, Community Development Block Grant

Pasadena City College Community Education Center

Our Mission & Guiding Principles

Mothers' Club Family Learning Center prepares families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life through two-generation learning programs. Our programs are built on two guiding principles: in order for significant, long-term change to occur within a family, you must reach both parent and child and educate them together; and, the most critical time to reach a family is when children are proven to be most vulnerable and impressionable, between birth and 5 years-old.

The Power of Two-Generation Learning

We fulfill our mission by providing FREE programs to disadvantaged families with children ages 0-5. Our two-generation learning model helps mothers and children gain the knowledge, skills and confidence they will need to break out of poverty. National research and our own evaluation results confirm that increasing the education levels of both a parent and their child is an irrefutable way to promote long-term, positive change within a family and a community.

Donate Online & Learn More at www.mothersclub.org

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The Power of Two - March 2015

Editors: Mara Leong-Nichols and Lara Nassar

Mothers' Club Family Learning Center is a
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