

La Luz

Centro Cultural

Inside this issue

Día de los Muertos.....	2
Volunteer Spotlight	2
Upcoming Events.....	2
Donor List 2019.....	3
Directors Report.....	3
About Us/Donate	4

Special Points of Interest

October Service Total	387
• Programming	260
• Social Services	127
November Service Total	338
• Programming	186
• Social Services	152
December Service Total	163
• Programming	46
• Social Services	117

Board Members

<i>President:</i>	James Kohls
<i>Vice President:</i>	Valeria Gonzalez
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Maria Siems
<i>Secretary:</i>	Janette Flores Acolt
Esmeralda Ramirez Brenda Espejo Captain Mark Morrison Steven Chuy	

Personnel

Claudia Rivera | Aimee Lenth
Liliana Velasco | Maria Guadiana

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

What an incredible year 2019 was!

We started off with a series of cultural cooking classes that taught how to make pupusas, tortillas, rice, and even a cactus salad. Gran Festival showcased the diverse and rich cultural offerings of the area and was a huge success with a packed park full people enjoying great music and food. The summer continued strong with our Active Kids programming and concluded with a pool party.

Interest in English classes blossomed in the fall with a record number of students enrolling. Sprinkled throughout the year were programs celebrating holidays, various presentations about health, and classes about computers and traffic laws.

The biggest changes came at the end of the year with the addition of two part-time staff, a new comprehensive case management program for victims of crimes, and the move to a new building. Lili and Maria have quickly become integral parts of the team at La Luz and continue to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to our growing agency. The new services for victims of crimes are an unfortunate necessity and have already been well received. Our hope is to work with survivors and walk with them down the path of healing.

Moving offices has already allowed us to expand our programming and share with more people the hospitality La Luz is known for. As interest in our services and programs continues to grow, this new space has been crucial.

Thank you to all who support us and our mission. We look forward to 2020!

3032 Total Client Interactions in 2019

January 196	May 228	September 310
February 162	June 181	October 387
March 241	July 262	November 338
April 228	August 336	December 163

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a celebration honoring loved ones who have died. La Luz hosted a variety of events to share in this rich tradition together.

The office was buzzing with activity all week as we had bilingual story time with books about Día de los Muertos, decorated skull cookies, crafted paper Catrinas (the iconic

skeleton figure), painted faces, and had a time of fellowship with tamales and Mexican hot chocolate. Throughout the week, a corner of the office was dedicated to a community *ofrenda* where people brought pictures and tokens to honor their loved ones.

Thank you to everyone who participated or led an activity!



SERVICES

English Classes

We teach English classes in the evenings during the fall and spring. Class levels range from basic to advanced.

Conversational Spanish

Practice your Spanish with our weekly conversation group.

Interpretation/Translation

We can assist with interpretation at appointments and phone calls. We offer translations of documents for a fee.

Referrals to Social Services

We are here to help connect you with appropriate services outside of La Luz Centro Cultural.

Citizenship Tutor Connection

We connect students studying for the citizenship test with tutors to aid them in their civics learning.

Services for Survivors of a Crime

Anyone who has experienced a crime can receive comprehensive case management and support from trained staff.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Moving offices is hard work! Thankfully we had an outstanding crew of volunteers to make the move in December much easier. The incredible help didn't end there. We have continued to have assistance with rearranging furniture and cleaning the old and new offices.

Certainly there will be many more to thank in the future, but for now we especially give thanks for the generous spirits of Rosalba Zuviri, Stacey and Mario de la Cruz, Mary Klein, Elder Capps, Elder Hudson, Ana Lopez, and the families of staff who pitched in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spanish Conversations, every Friday 12:30pm-1:30pm
- Women's Support Group, February 10 5:30pm
- Men's Support Group, February 17 5:30pm
- Safe Driving Class, February 27 10:00am
- Cultural Cooking Class (in English), February 25 5:30pm
- Women's Support Group, March 9 5:30pm
- Men's Support Group, March 16 5:30pm
- Cultural Cooking Class (in Spanish), March 24, 5:30pm
- Cultural Cooking Class (in English), March 31, 5:30pm
- Women's Support Group, April 13, 5:30pm
- Men's Support Group, April 20, 5:30pm

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR 2019 DONORS AND SPONSORS WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED OUR MISSION

Individual Contributions:

Anonymous in Memory of John Hernandez
Beth Behrend
Carol and Jonathan Harrison
Charles and Nancy Sweetman
Claire Fox
Cristie Larsen
Deb and Tim Roberts
Denise Pralle
Dennis and Dorothea Hanson
Doreen and Everett Peterson
Elizabeth Zamora
Elmer and Elbia Trochez
Glenn and Bernadyne Langer
Jacqueline Comito
James and Karen McCormick
Jan and Berry Johnson
Jim and Janet Kohls
Jim Davies
Joan Coonley
Dr. Joseph and Julie Wojcik
Julie and Richard Salvesen
Linda and John Hamilton
Linda and Leon Kuehner
Mark Morrison
Mary Thornburgh
Nancy Showalter
Richard Packebush
Ron and Dee Schermer
Scott and Jane Hoegh
Stephen and Sharon Loeffelholz
Wayne Freeland

Group Contributions:

Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, Dubuque, Iowa and staff
Barkema Charitable Trust
Barlow Family Foundation
Cady & Rosenberg Law Firm
Casey's General Store
Centrum Valley Farms
First Bank Hampton
First Security Bank & Trust
Franklin General Hospital
GFCCC Tourism
Green Belt Bank & Trust
Guido's Motors International
Hampton Kiwanis
Hampton Rotary
Hampton United Methodist Women
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Specialty Hospital
Jane Alquist Memorial
Knights of Columbus
Kruger Family Fund
Kum & Go Charitable Fund
Midwest Meter, Inc.
NIACC
Prestage Foods
Saint Pius X Parish
Seabee
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sukup Manufacturing
United Bank & Trust Company
United Way of North Central Iowa

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all your support in 2019! Whether with money or time, your contributions provided us with what we needed to continue our important work in this community. To those named and unnamed, thank you!

NEW LOOK

You may have noticed our new name and look! Our mission is to promote cultural awareness and diversity with supportive services for all. As we continued to live out this mission, we recognized a small name change would help us in this effort. Rebranding as "Centro Cultural" visibly signals that we are a cultural center providing a variety of services and events including those that celebrate culture.

Our new logo with the name change carries over the insignia of the lantern from our incorporators, the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The lantern is iconic of their foundress, Nano Nagle. It also represents our mission and name (La Luz means "the light"). This what we hope to do every day: to empower the inner light in everyone through our daily connections. The more everyone's light shines, the richer our community is!

Our website has also updated to reflect these changes. You can now find us at www.laluzcc.org.



DIRECTORS REPORT

2019 was a productive year for La Luz as we journeyed through some innovative changes and focused on our empowerment efforts. We know we are not in this alone and have experienced great community support. Thank you to our supporters and patrons for all you have done this past year. We would not be where we are without you!

2020 is a time of renewal as we focus on our goals and vision. Moving to a new building was a great decision. We now have ample room to offer the services we have endeavored to provide for quite some time. We love our new space because of the potential it offers to create and expand our programs and offer new services.

We are a cultural center with a vision to share that cultural experience with everyone. As always, we appreciate the community's support, volunteerism, and guidance in our transition. We will keep you updated on future renovations as we see our space change into a cultural hub.

-Claudia Rivera



**La Luz
Centro Cultural**

The mission of La Luz is to promote cultural awareness and diversity with hospitality and supportive services for all.

Situated in downtown Hampton, Iowa, the center is a space where Latinos can share and build their strengths, where social isolation is not a barrier, and where hope and a sense of possibility are fostered.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO A CULTURAL CENTER

At La Luz we welcome all donations to our organization and we have simplified the way you can donate to our important cause, as we know the only way to thrive is through community support.

PAY PAL: You can now donate through PayPal by going to our website at www.laluzcc.org

CHECKS: Mail to La Luz 7 2nd Ave NE Hampton, IA 50441.

LEGACY GIVING: Be assured your legacy will live on and give life to your community by leaving a gift to La Luz in your will.

VOLUNTEERS: We always welcome volunteers looking to be a part of our various programs. Call or email us today to find out how you can help!

GRAN FESTIVAL SPONSOR: Become a sponsor for our annual festival.
www.granfestivalnorthiowa.org

La Luz is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

If you would prefer to receive an e-newsletter, please let us know at info@laluzcc.org or sign up online at www.laluzcc.org.

**La Luz
Centro Cultural**
7 2nd Ave NE
Hampton, IA 50441
641-812-1090
info@laluzcc.org

[Facebook.com/laluzcc](https://www.facebook.com/laluzcc)
[Instagram.com/laluzcc](https://www.instagram.com/laluzcc)

www.laluzcc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To:

