La Luz
Centro Cultural

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Special Points of Interest
January Service Total ..........245
  • Programming ............124
  • Social Services ..........121
February Service Total ..........285
  • Programming ............144
  • Social Services ..........141
March Service Total ..........227
  • Programming ............128
  • Social Services ..........99

Board Members
President: James Kohls
Vice President: Valeria Gonzalez
Treasurer: Maria Siems
Secretary: Janette Flores Acolt
Esmeralda Ramirez | Brenda Espejo
Kyle Whalen | Steven Chuy |
Captain Mark Morrison

Personnel
Claudia Rivera | Aimee Lenth
Liliana Velasco | Maria Guadiana

SAME MISSION, DIFFERENT METHODS
How quickly life can change.

In the course of a few weeks, all of us have been required to alter the way we work and live for the safety of all. In the midst of these changes, La Luz Centro Cultural remains committed to our mission of promoting cultural awareness and diversity with hospitality and supportive services for all. It is only the ways in which we live out that mission that have changed.

Our office is physically closed to the public, and we are now working remotely. Thankfully our office and staff were well equipped to transitioning to remote work. We are still able to assist families via phone calls, WhatsApp messaging, texts, and Facebook. English classes have moved to an online format allowing for continued language development from the safety and comfort of students’ homes. Students have repeatedly expressed their gratitude at this adjustment. Similarly, the Spanish language hour every Friday has also moved to a video chat. One new service we are beginning is a small food pantry. Please see page 3 for more information.

We strive each day to share pertinent and accurate information to our communities who look to us for guidance. Thankfully we are a trusted entity and area partners communicate directly with us and send information to share with our social media followers.

As much as we can, we continue our variety of services and programming while maintaining social distance, but some events have had to be canceled. The saddest of these is the cancellation of our annual festival - Gran Festival North Iowa. Please see page 2 for more information.

We extend our deepest thanks to all those who continue to serve their neighbors in this time. Whether through their essential work, virtual volunteering, or donating money, every act of kindness we put out into the world will alleviate a burden somewhere.

Thank you for your steadfast support for our work in this community!
It is with a heavy heart that La Luz Centro Cultural and its Board of Directors are announcing the cancellation of Gran Festival North Iowa this year. With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and the toll it has taken on the community, it is not prudent to hold this event in 2020. We will plan on bringing our communities together in celebration next year on Saturday June 5, 2021!

We want to give a special thanks to the following businesses for their intended sponsorships for the festival. They have all graciously shifted their support to a general donation to La Luz Centro Cultural and the work we are currently doing.

Platinum ($2,500): Franklin General Hospital
Silver ($1,000): Midwest Meter, First Bank Hampton

“From the Hardworking Families of Midwest Meter and MID:COM”

FRANKLIN GENERAL HOSPITAL
An Affiliate of MERCY ONE.

FIRST BANK HAMPTON

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
This edition, we wish to spotlight our Board of Directors. These individuals give hours of their time each month to help guide the direction of the organization and use their knowledge and talents to ensure we are always doing our best. We deeply appreciate their dedication and ask you to join us in thanking them for their commitment.

Current board members are:

President: Jim Kohls (Seabee)
Vice President: Valeria Gonzalez (NIACC)
Treasurer: Maria Siems (First Bank Hampton)
Secretary: Janette Flores Acolt (Cady & Rosenberg Law Firm)
Brenda Diosdado (Hampton-Dumont Community School)
Esmeralda Ramirez (Hampton Public Library)
Kyle Whalen (King Construction and Overhead Door)
Captain Mark Morrison (Hampton Police Department)
Steven Chuy (St. Patrick’s Catholic Church)

UPCOMING EVENTS

• All in-person programming is currently suspended
• Spanish Conversations, every Friday 12:30pm-1:30pm (online)
• English Classes, every Monday and Wednesday evening (online)
A TASTE OF DIFFERENT CULTURES

Participants in February's Cultural Cooking Class came with sleeves rolled up and taste buds ready for something new! With a hands-on approach, students learned how to make green enchiladas. From making salsa with the green tomatillos to frying the tortillas and assembling the enchiladas, students took part in each step. The results were great conversations, lots of laughter, and a delicious plate of food at the end.

FOOD PANTRY EXPANSION
La Luz Centro Cultural is now a distribution site for Food Bank of Iowa food. With this expansion, we are able to provide additional assistance to families in this difficult time and beyond.

La Luz began a partnership with the Food Bank of Iowa in the summer of 2018. At that time, we were designated as a “meal site” which meant we could use the resources to provide food during our programming. This allowed us to offer fruit and other healthy snacks during our Active Kids summer groups and our English classes where some students come directly after work with no time to eat in between.

With this shift to being a distribution site, La Luz will be a smaller version of other locations such as the Franklin County Food Shelf and St. Patrick’s Food Shelf. Data from the Food Bank of Iowa in 2018 showed that even with these excellent resources, our county was still only serving 62% of those in need. Our goal is to join in this work to get that number up to 100%.

During this time of social distancing due to COVID-19, those needing food assistance should call 641-812-1090 and we will arrange a curbside pickup of pre-bagged items.

DIRECTORS REPORT
La Luz Centro Cultural Board members and Staff have been doing a wonderful job adapting to change. We want to let our supporters know that we continue to serve clients in these difficult times. We have witnessed the resilience of our community by coming together in the time of struggle to support each other.

I am very proud of our team and how they are able and willing to do things differently. They are working extensively to make sure that we are offering support to the community and keeping people informed. La Luz Centro Cultural’s priority is keeping families safe and informed as we strive to provide the same valued service to our clients.

Thank you for your continued support.

Claudia Rivera
La Luz
Centro Cultural
The mission of La Luz Centro Cultural 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 their heritage 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 Centro Cultural 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.

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

CHECKS: Mail to La Luz Centro Cultural 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!

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

La Luz Centro Cultural 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

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