

# La Luz Centro Cultural

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## Special Points of Interest

July Service Total .....	211
• Programming .....	10
• Social Services .....	201
August Service Total .....	293
• Programming .....	18
• Social Services .....	275
September Service Total .....	334
• Programming .....	87
• Social Services .....	247

## Board Members

<i>President:</i>	James Kohls
<i>Vice President:</i>	Kyle Whalen
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Maria Siems
<i>Secretary:</i>	Janette Flores Acolt

Pia Hovenga | Brenda Espejo  
| Father Kevin Earleywine |  
Captain Mark Morrison

## Personnel

Claudia Rivera | Aimee Lenth  
Liliana Velasco | Sam Kohls  
Maria Gomez Castillo

## ANNUAL APPEAL 2020

Dear Friends of La Luz Centro Cultural,

This past year has brought many changes to the ways we live, work, and interact with each other. What hasn't changed, though, is La Luz Centro Cultural's commitment to serve the Latinx community in North Central Iowa through our mission of promoting cultural awareness and diversity with hospitality and supportive services for all. **You can help us continue this important work!**

The need for our services and programs has only increased during this time of upheaval and deep desire to remain connected. We are also in the process of updating the building we moved into last December to create a space where all are welcome. Yet in the midst of the pandemic, our donations and fundraising efforts have taken a hit. With safety in mind, we had to cancel our Gran Festival back in June which prevented us from raising thousands of dollars. Many who offer donations have lost income and have had to focus on necessities.

**With prudent consideration of your own situation, if you are able to make a contribution of any size to La Luz Centro Cultural in this season of giving, we would be honored to receive your support.**

Not all is lost in 2020 and we at La Luz have much to appreciate. We are grateful for the technology that allows us to conduct the vast majority of our services at a safe distance and for video call features that help maintain the personal connection so crucial in our work. Above all, we are thankful for all of you who read this letter and keep La Luz in your hearts and minds.

With gratitude,



Claudia Rivera  
Executive Director



Aimee Lenth  
Associate Director

September 15 through October 15 is Latino and Hispanic Heritage Month where we celebrate the cultures and traditions of those with roots in Central and South America, Spain, and the Caribbean.

To safely celebrate the beginning of the heritage month, La Luz held a drive-



*Board member Maria hands bags of to-go meals to hungry patrons.*

through food event on Friday, September 18. We partnered with La Chozita, a local restaurant, to serve chicken barbacoa, rice, beans, and flan while another restaurant, La Amiguita, supplied freshly made tortillas. We served over 220 meals that night and it was a joy to interact with some people we haven't seen for many months with the COVID-19 precautions in place.

Many expressed their gratitude for the delicious and fun way to celebrate as well as the welcome change to their routines. Thank you to all who helped make this possible and to those who came to enjoy a meal!



*Staff member Lili (left) and board member Janette (right) put together to-go meals.*

### 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 small 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

La Luz Centro Cultural is extremely lucky to have Denise Pralle as a volunteer. Denise and her husband, Brian, graduated from CAL High School and after some time away moved back to the area in 2019. Denise has a background in community health, education, and a passion for diversity. "For how small (Hampton) is," Denise says, "I feel we are so blessed to have such a diverse community". Through La Luz, she has been tutoring native Spanish-speakers who are learning English. She considers her time a "win-win" as her Spanish improves along with their English. She has enjoyed getting to know them and their different interests and backgrounds. Denise believes volunteering "pushes you out of your boundaries a little bit. When your Spanish isn't amazing, you have to be willing to learn with them." According to Denise, "if you are interested in Spanish and getting to know people, this is a great opportunity". We appreciate all the time and energy Denise has volunteered for our community!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **All in-person programming is currently suspended**
- Spanish Conversations, every Friday 12:30pm-1:30pm (online)
- Women's Support Group, 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30pm (online)
- Men's Support Group, 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30pm (online)
- Teen Support Group, 4th Monday of the month at 5:30pm (online)

## BUILDING UPDATES

La Luz Centro Cultural is moving forward with realizing a dream for a warm and welcoming space for the community. Last year, we purchased a building large enough to accommodate a cultural center that will bring life, color, hospitality and togetherness. Our vision for the space is coming together thanks to community input and support. With initial grant funding from the State of Iowa Rural Innovation Grant and Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant, we contracted the services of SB&A Architects and have entered into the first stages of the project to bring these dreams to a reality.

As the plans come together, we would love to share with you the enthusiasm and dreams we have for each area!

- **Family Room:** a space designed for children to safely wait while their parents are visiting the center—complete with toys, a small TV, and comfy furniture.
- **Classrooms:** two large rooms to accommodate our ever-growing English language classes. With a moveable partition in-between, this space can transform into one large room to hold big events.
- **Commercial Kitchen:** a small but powerful kitchen will allow us to hold cultural cooking classes and even host dinner fundraisers with easy access to our large gathering space.
- **Food Pantry:** with a dedicated door and window, clients can receive food pantry services while maintaining the privacy many desire.
- **Bathrooms & Shower:** these spaces will enhance our ability to provide a hospitable center with important amenities like baby changing stations and a washer/dryer area.
- **Emergency Shelter:** incorporating many of the features listed above, this area will be accessible in times of emergency need while keeping the rest of the building secure. With access to the kitchen, bathrooms, shower, and a convertible room for sleeping, this emergency shelter will be available to those escaping a dangerous situation or a disaster until a more stable solution is found.

This is only beginning of our journey in making this space our own. **If you would like to contribute toward the building fund, please make a note of that when making your donation. Thank you!**



### DIRECTORS REPORT

I am proud to announce that with help from an amazing staff and Board of Directors, we were able to establish our core values. As we face difficulties in our lives, we need that direction to analyze why we do the work that we do. Our values are what keeps us going. Thank you for your support.

#### ADVOCACY

Empowering people to use their voices.

#### COMMUNITY

As we learn about one another, we learn about ourselves.

#### EDUCATION

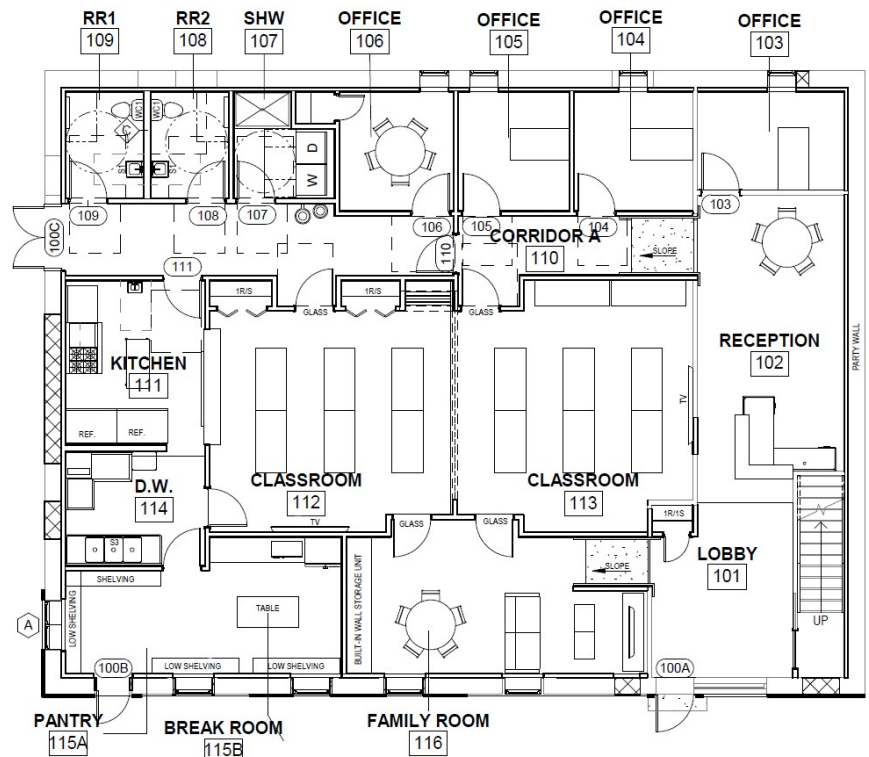
Committed to lifelong learning.

#### HERITAGE

Embracing diverse cultural roots.

#### HOSPITALITY

Everyone is welcome here, always.



## 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 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.

**PAY PAL:** You can now donate through PayPal by going to our website at [www.laluzcc.org](http://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!

**GRAN FESTIVAL SPONSOR:** Become a sponsor for our annual festival.  
[www.granfestivalnorthiowa.org](http://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](mailto:info@laluzcc.org) or sign up online at [www.laluzcc.org](http://www.laluzcc.org).

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

To: