



Meet our Madre of the Month, Victorina

Victorina, a mother of two sons, first discovered AVANCE one morning when she heard a knock at her door. A teacher told her about a program for both mothers and their young children that would help them prepare for school and reach their goals. Victorina was very interested, but was also apprehensive about enrolling her son, Sergio. At 3 years old, he wasn't speaking. Her other son, Christian, was only 11 months old. She wasn't sure how AVANCE could help them.



(Victorina is proud of her 9-month journey with sons Sergio and Christian.)

she began to realize that AVANCE was helping her children get ready for Pre-K and Kindergarten. She began to see a vision for the future.

In the beginning, Sergio was shy about making new friends at AVANCE. As the family continued to attend classes throughout the 9 months, Victorina noticed Sergio blossoming. He could recite aloud various colors, shapes, and numbers. During monthly home visits,

AVANCE's home educator noticed Sergio's improvements and referred Victorina to a speech therapist to continue his success.

A year later, Sergio is now speaking in complete sentences and is enrolled in PreK classes. The family graduated from AVANCE this past summer, and Victorina is more confident about her children's journey for a brighter future.

But teachers encouraged Victorina to attend AVANCE classes. They assured her that AVANCE was a safe environment, and attending the 9-month Parent-Child Education Program was the first step toward a lifetime journey of success for herself and her family. As Victorina attended classes each week,



John Quiñones to Keynote the AVANCE-Austin Annual Luncheon

"My mother taught us that no matter what side of the tracks we lived on, we could be a success at whatever we tackled. Because of that, I never thought that I wasn't

going to make it. Besides, real success has nothing to do with money or cars or houses. It comes from within." —John Quiñones, "What Would You Do?"

When the Quiñones family faced discrimination and prejudice, the mother would ask her son, "¿Qué harías tu?" or "What would you do?" to confront adversity. It was this question that inspired 6-year-old John Quiñones to strive for and achieve a brighter future. We are honored to have John return to Texas to anchor AVANCE-Austin's Annual Luncheon to celebrate the fact that for many families like John's, AVANCE changes everything! Like John, Sergio had a mom - Victorina - who believed in him. Come celebrate and encourage our work with John Quiñones at our Annual Luncheon!

Co-presenting sponsors:



Special Honorees:

Griffith Family Legacy Award
Danna and J.H. "Crutch" Crutchfield

Individual Heroes:
John Donisi and Gina Hinojosa

Corporate Hero:
H-E-B

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United Way for Greater Austin



(Danna and J.H. "Crutch" Crutchfield)

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

From 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

**At the Four Seasons Hotel
(98 San Jacinto Blvd.)**

**Go to Austin.avance.org or contact
AustinEvents@avance.org for more info**



Marie's Corner

Turning A New Leaf for a Lifetime

It starts with a knock on the front door, a visit to a booth at a local health fair, a referral from a friend or school volunteer, or perhaps a conversation started at the local Women Infants & Children (WIC) Program. No matter how parents and children make their way to AVANCE, they all discover paths to school success, to learning what makes healthy and stable families, and to achieving their goals. This month, 5 brand new classes of young children and their parents began the AVANCE Parent-Child Education Program.

Walking down the halls at the Allan Early Childhood and STEM Center, located in the former Allan Elementary School, I see parents anxiously dropping off their infants or toddlers. For many, they have never been separated from each other for extended periods. Oftentimes, they both cry the first day! They meet their children's new teachers who will care for, nurture, and teach their children new things while they themselves are learning to create and achieve goals for their families. Parents and children both meet new friends and settle in after a few weeks. Parents begin to look forward to coffee, breakfast, and fellowship with their new friends as the day's lessons begin.

For the next 9 months, these parents and children are committed to attending weekly parenting and early childhood development classes; making their own educational toys for their children; learning English; participating in home education visits; and utilizing resources that have been introduced to them during our community resource hour. It's an intensive process for sure, yet each week more than 270 children and parents will enthusiastically (most days!) come through AVANCE's classes in East Austin and Del Valle. The babies smile at their teachers. Toddlers dart into class to play with their friends, and together they start a day of learning, playing, singing, and sharing.

Week after week, parents will gain confidence, increase their circles of support, and become more determined to reach their goals. Parents will start new routines at home, like reading to their children daily. In addition to classes and home visits, they will celebrate holidays together and fun events like Dia de los Ninos in the spring. Moms will even be pampered and self-empowered during Beauty Day in October. Finally, in May, parents and children will receive a graduation diploma during a special graduation ceremony, complete with caps and gowns.

A family's experience in AVANCE's evidence-based 2Generation program is a one-time investment of 9 months that will provide them with lifelong and lasting experience and skills, changing the trajectory of their lives. More than 94% of children will go on to graduate high school and nearly 100% improve their own educational and employment levels. Thank you, our donors, for making it possible for AVANCE to welcome the class of 2016-17!

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Volunteer Spotlight



A huge shout out goes to our friends at **Intel** and **Wells Fargo**! The week before classes began, both teams volunteered to help our teachers with decorating classrooms, toy making, and much more. Thanks to them, AVANCE teachers were ready to meet new parents and kiddos for the first day of classes.

Supporter Spotlight

AVANCE-Austin deeply appreciates the gifts from the following supporters from **July 1, 2016– August 31, 2016** (Any omission is purely accidental. Please give us a call and corrections will be made.)

Organizations

Austin Independent School District
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Balie and Beverly Griffith
Belinda Holguin
Maria Lozano
Phillip Martin
Christopher Smith

Thanks to the following for volunteering and their in-kind donations this quarter!



Thanks to our special partners

Austin ISD | City of Austin | Del Valle ISD | Travis County



**SUCCESS
BY 6**



A Special Thanks

This summer, IBM led a Social Media Engagement Workshop for AVANCE-Austin. We are so grateful for the opportunity to learn how to expand our visibility across social media channels, such as our Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and website. Special thanks to Stephen Laphen and Beth Tracy for providing this opportunity.



LEGACY GIVING CIRCLE

Becoming a Legacy Giving Circle major donor is an investment for the future of hundreds of low-income children under the age of three and their parents. The Legacy Giving Circle provides a sustaining stream of revenue to support our mission and enable the agency to transform, sustain, and scale our programs to address root causes of trans-generational poverty in our communities.

Giving Levels & Current Members

Visionaries Circle A gift of \$25,000 each year for three years is a transformational major gift that will change the trajectory of a child's life.

Danna and Crutch Crutchfield
Beverly & Balie Griffith
Stephanie & Steven Griffith

Catalysts - a gift of \$10,000 each year for three years will spark impact and social change by investing in the future success of our youngest at-risk children

Champions for Children -a gift of \$5,000 each year for three years will champion changes in a family's life that will ensure a positive, healthy, and successful childhood.

Pathfinders \$2,500 a year for 3 years

Building blocks \$1,200 a year for 3 years

Robbie & Tom Ausley
Rosie and Richard Mendoza

For more information about becoming a member of our new Legacy Giving Circle, please contact us at (512) 414-6127 or avance-austin@avance.org

Café y Cuentos

Learn how the Parent-Child Education Program is getting kids school ready and preparing parents for success to make dreams come true.

**October 11 and November 15 from
9 AM—10 AM**

**at the Allan Early Childhood &
STEM Center**

**RSVP please contact Marie Felan at
mfelan.aus@avance.org or
512-414-6125.**



Congratulations to our fabulous Board Members, Amber Walker (left) and Rosie Gutierrez Mendoza (right). Wells Fargo awarded Amber the Corporate Social Responsibility Award of Excellence, and Rosie was named the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award winner during their Celebrando event.





Stay connected
Visit us at austin.avance.org



Donate today!
In Austin 44,000 children under the age of five are living in poverty. 70% of them will not be ready to start school.
When AVANCE connects these children and their parents with knowledge, resources, and the confidence to create and achieve a brighter future, the opportunities begin to arise.
Our goal is to reach as many families as we can, but we can only do it with your help.
You can make your meaningful gift by going to Austin.Avance.org or mail a check to
745 Mansell Avenue, Austin, TX 78702
Mill gracias!

Our Vision
Children and parents advance to their full potential, transforming the communities in which they live.
Our Mission
Unlocking America's potential by strengthening families in at-risk communities through effective parent education and support programs.
Contact Us
Marie Felan, Executive Director
Phone: (512) 841-4686
Main Office: (512) 414-6127
Advance-austin@avance.org
austin.avance.org

Volunteer Opportunities
Toy making preparation (ongoing)
Data Entry (ongoing)
Social Media Ambassadors (ongoing)
Graphic Designers (ongoing)
Day of Beauty ambassadors (November 14)
Holiday Party volunteers (December 17)
Contact dglasgow@avance.org for more info

Our Wish List
Projector
Bluetooth Speakers
2 Keurig coffee makers
2-tier rolling carts
Diapers (infants to toddlers)
Wipes

AVANCE[®]
Austin
Unlocking America's Potential
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