



Meet our Madre of the Month, Maricela



Maricela's first day at AVANCE

When Heidi was born, she looked like every other healthy baby. The doctors said she was a perfect height and weight for a newborn. However, her mother Maricela began to notice some alarming symptoms in her infant daughter. Heidi wasn't able to sit up; her body was like gelatin; she began vomiting breast milk; and suffered from chronic congestion.

The doctors diagnosed the nine month-old with a rare condition that enlarged the heart, called ALCAPA (Anomalous Left Coronary Artery from the Pulmonary Artery). The infant would have to have surgery in Dallas or she would not survive.

The four-hour surgery was a success and the two began going to physical therapy sessions to strengthen Heidi's lungs. It was during these sessions that the physical therapist suggested AVANCE-Austin. Maricela was recommended to AVANCE-Austin because it would give her tools to advocate for Heidi's health, education, and for both of their futures.

The initial journey at AVANCE proved to be difficult for the

now three year-old Heidi. It was the first time she was separated from her mother, even if it was only for a few hours a week. But Maricela began to notice changes in her daughter, and encouraged her. "At AVANCE, Heidi transformed like a butterfly. The first day, Heidi cried so much. But with each class, she was making so many new friends, and her teachers told me how much of a leader she was becoming," Maricela says.

Both mother and daughter completed their AVANCE classes in December and will participate in our May graduation. Currently Maricela is volunteering at AVANCE and helps toy making instructor, Maria. Heidi is enrolled at Pre-K, where she is thriving.

They will walk across the stage together in May after nine months with courage and strength to receive their AVANCE diploma. Their AVANCE graduation marks yet another milestone in their journey of success together.



Heidi playing at AVANCE



Amplify Austin Brings in Over \$30K

Amplify Austin 2016 was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without the help from our amazing AVANCE-Austin board, staff, and donors. We raised a grand total of over \$30,000, which includes a generous \$10,000 match gift from Danna and Crutch Crutchfield.



Amplify Your Love Cocktail Event

AVANCE-Austin's Amplify Austin Campaign kicked off with a special cocktail reception sponsored by the University of Texas Club on November 23. At the event, guests were encouraged to make their pledges early and to sign up as AVANCE Ambassadors to run their own fundraising campaigns.

AVANCE-Austin had 15 fundraisers contributing to the success of the campaign.

In a unique Amplify Austin activity, one of our community's most generous tech companies joined the fun, thanks to our Board Member, Glo Villarreal, who introduced our mission to OpenSymmetry. Todd LeBaron, CEO and co-founder, let employees cut his hair to help raise funds for AVANCE-Austin! Glo and OpenSymmetry raised \$5,000.

A giving community is critical to our mission and to making our community great. Big thanks to everyone for taking on such a great campaign! Special thanks to our in-kind sponsors for donating gifts for our raffle prizes.



Marie's Corner

AVANCE-Austin Board of Directors



The beautiful bluebonnets aren't the only things in bloom this spring. As we approach the seventh month of our Parent Child Education Program or PCEP here at AVANCE, both parents and children are blossoming!

Just like Heidi, children who were at first terrified of being separated from their mothers, light up as they enter their classrooms. Their little smiles are as bright as the spring sunshine. Babies that were crawling when they first entered the program have taken their first steps and now are toddling around the bright, vibrant carpets in our infant's room. The halls of our new classrooms in the Allan Early Childhood and STEM Center are much quieter than they were 7 months ago as parents left their crying children to walk into their own unknown environments. Now when I walk down the hallway, I hear singing and I see bright, energetic children learning as they play.

While we serve both mothers and fathers in our program, and sometimes grandparents raising their grandchildren, the majority of our participants happen to be mothers. Evidence proves that a mother's literacy and education levels are the number one indicators of a child's success in school and life, among other indicators such as health. With these important indicators at stake, our Parenting Educators use the AVANCE dual-generation, evidenced-based model to ensure that moms in our program are equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to ensure their child is healthy, happy, and ready for school. The moms in our classes are eager from day one of the class, though very often shy and nervous about being in a class of strangers. But just like their children, these mothers open up and make new friends. Now, they are



eager to speak up in class. They have developed friendships with other parents in the program, and they are building strong relationships with their children.

In May, both parents and children will participate in a graduation ceremony, marking their outstanding progress toward life-changing goals. Graduation is one of my favorite late spring activities. I am in awe of the graduating families and as representative parents address the guests to share their experience in the program. These speakers are confident, poised, and articulate. They are also thankful for the program. I am thankful to all of our supporters that help us plant the seeds for success that we watch sprout and then bloom into stronger, healthier and happy families ready to achieve brighter futures. Happy spring!

Rosie Mendoza, CPA, Board Chair
R. Mendoza & Company, PC

Elma Cantú Aldrete, Vice Chair
St. Edward's University

Blanca Garcia Zamora, Treasurer
Casa Blanca Realty

Dulce Ruiz, Secretary
HomeAway, Inc.

Kathleen Vale Castillo, Development Committee Co-chair
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Jo Cassandra Cuevas, Development Committee Co-chair
AT&T

Phillip Martin, Governance Committee Chair
Progress Texas

Glo Villarreal, Program Committee Chair
Community Volunteer

Amber Walker, Human Resources Committee Chair
Wells Fargo Bank

Hon. Valinda Bolton
Community Volunteer

Fely Garcia
Univision

Dawn Lewis
Austin Partners in Education

Cynthia Miller Rindy
Rindy Miller Media

Dr. Stacey Shackelford
Austin Community College

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 & J.H. "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 Marie Felan at (512) 841-4686 or mfelan.aus@avance.org

Supporter Spotlight

AVANCE-Austin deeply appreciates the gifts from the following supporters from **Nov 1– Feb 29, 2016** (Any omission is purely accidental. Please give us a call and corrections will be made.)

Individuals

Elma Cantu and James Aldrete
Missy Apodaca
Robbie and Tom Ausley
Hon. Valinda Bolton
Alison Burke
David Butts
Sylvia Camarillo
Perla Cavazos
Eleanor and James Cochran
Crystal Cotti
Josefina Cuevas
Katrina Daniel
Marlyn Davis
Karin Hinojosa and Alejandro del Castillo
Libby and Hon. Lloyd Doggett
Gina Hinojosa and John Donisi
Don Garner
Lora Ann Gerson
Beverly and Balie Griffith
Karlen Gross
Anochesca Guajardo

Nicole Guidotti
Gerard J. Haddican
Belinda Holguin
Johnathan Jones
Michael Keig
Alice Kuhn
Coleen Linden
Ann Loupot Daughety
Lauren Love
Maria Lozano
Scott M. Jones
Michael Kaase
Phillip Martin
Sarah McElvaney
Christina Mendez
Rosie and Richard Mendoza
Mary and Lynn Moak
Susan Moffat
Hon. Elliot Naishtat
Lou O'Hanlon
Hon. Bob Perkins
Robert Price
Alicia Raizen
Kristofor Rivera
Roberto Ruiz Jr.
Barbara Rush
Kate Turner-Abel
Kathy Vale Castillo

Amber Walker
Dana Williams
Suzanne and Marc Winkelman
Susan Yates

Corporations & Foundations

ABE Charitable Foundation
Austin Community Foundation
Austin Independent School District
City of Austin/ Ready Families Collaboration
Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation
The Long Family Foundation
Miller Family Charitable Fund
The Powell Foundation
Travis County Health & Human Services Dept.
United Way for Greater Austin

Thanks to our special partners

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



**SUCCESS
BY 6**



Mil Gracias for Amplifying AVANCE-Austin:

Liv Albino - Chris Albino - James Aldrete - Nina Almas - Kathy Bailey - Sutapa Balaji - Eve Barnaby- Margie Becker - Benton-Haddican Family - Oliver Bernstein - Katie Botello - Rob Borja - The Boyds -- Jan Bullock - Marili Burbes - Daphne Calderon - Mary Alice Carnes - Juan Castillo - Hon Chan - Faye Chandler - Jon Clark - Alex Cooke - Kelly K Crook - Sarah Decker - Karin & Alejandro del Castillo - Ann Denkler & Jett Hanna - John Donisi - Marie Felan - Rachael Felan - Tom Fitzpatrick - Maria Luisa Flores - Anne Ford - Ashley Foster - Cara Fox - Shelby G. - Blanca Z. Garcia - Bianca Garcia - Steven Garza - Iliana Gilman - Jon Gingell - Todd Golden - Rueben Gonzales - Larry Graham - Greg & Wendy Grounds - Jerry Haddican - Reeve Hamilton - Clarissa Hassfurther - Claire Hazen - Kristin Hazen - Scott Hazen - Elmis Hermosillo -

Maria Cantu Hexasel- Buster Hoffmaster - Liz Hoffmaster - Brandon & Jamie Holden - Tracy Holland - Fred Ibarra - Jerri Imhof - Celia Israel - Hunter James - David Jamieson - Shanker Karpe - Lauren Kelleher - Tom Kelly - Nell Kennedy - Kelly & Jb Kolodzey - M. Lawson - Ronald LeBaron - Dawn & Fred Lewis - Carolyn Long - Pamela Lutton - Corrie MacLaggan & Oliver Bernstein - Phillip Martin - Ana Martinez - Rev. Dr. Jayme Mathias - Melanie & Paul McCool - Raquel Mendoza - The Miller Family - Greg & Layla Milligan - Tridib Mittra - Christie Morales - Rick & Cleo Morales - Laura Morrison - Hon. Orinda Naranjo - Jeri Navin - Niva Nityanand - Genie Norris - Michael Noto - Joseph O'Hara - Lucy Oglesby - Sara Olson -- Raquel Ortega - Gloria Mata Pennington - Hon. Bob Perkins - James Perry - Janis & Joe Pinnelli - Lisa Pohl - Debbie & Andrew Pringle - D. Ramirez - The Rangel Family - Namrata Rastogi - Christopher

Rios - Alana Rocha - Karissa Rothstein - Moses T. Ruiz - Mark Ryberg - Ila Sarkar - Jaideep and Nikita Sarma - Adam Seitzman - Dawn Shackelford - Kelsey Shannon - Natalie Shebel - Dawn Skinner - Jeff Smith - Jan Soifer & Pat O'Connell - Stacy Strauser - The Sudarshans - Anne Thomas of AVANCE-Dallas - Shanda Thompson - RaeAnn Tucker - Sal and Pam Uglietta - Jane Ulrich - Cristina Valdes - Kathy Vale Castillo - Alex & Monica Vallejo - Mark Van Daele - Angela Vasquez - Glo Villarreal - Veronica Villarreal - Lisa Walker - Tara Waterman - Diane Weidenkopf - Barb Weigel - EMEA/Ray Wells - Colleen West - Amanda Williams - Prishanthi Wilson - Allison Wimberly - Susan Yates - James Yates & Alba Ortiz - Kaye & Tom Young - Marc Zakroff

Corporations

OpenSymmetry
BuildASign.com

Upcoming Events

Lunch and Learn

Join us for lunch to learn about the importance of dual-generation programs. Meet remarkable AVANCE parents and hear about their dreams they have for themselves and their children.

April 5, 2016 from noon to 1:00 PM

Allan Early Childhood & STEM Center (108).

To RSVP, please contact Daphne Glasgow at **512.414.6125** or dglasgow.aus@avance.org.

Día de los Niños

AVANCE children and families come together to enjoy lunch, a book-giving picnic, and fun & games!



April 30, 2016

11:00am-1:00pm
4900 Gonzales St.
Austin, TX 78702

Interested in volunteering? Contact Claire Hazen at chazen.aus@avance.org or call at **(512)-414-46126**

Class of 2016 AVANCE Graduation

AVANCE families and children receive their diploma during this ceremony, featuring an inspiring guest speaker.



May 26, 2016

10:00 to 11:30 AM &
1:00 to 2:30 PM

Allan Early Childhood & STEM Center cafeteria
4900 Gonzales St. Austin, TX 78702