

THE PROMISE



MISSION PROMISE
COMUNIDAD PROMESA DE LA MISION
NEIGHBORHOOD



Members of the Leadership Group during a session.

GROWING AS A LEADER

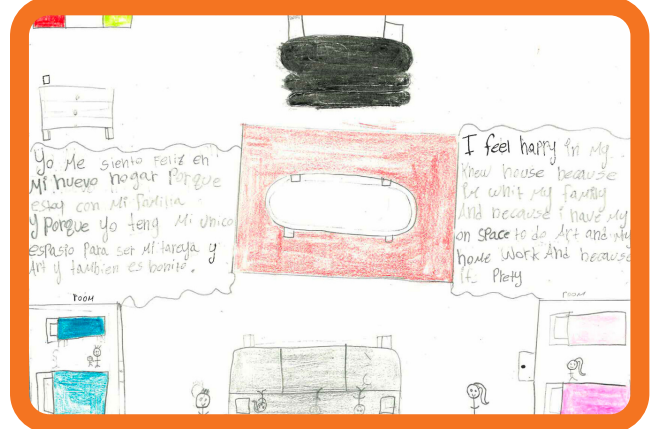
The Leadership Group was created to teach and give tools to parents in the Mission District for them to utilize their voice and advocate for resources in their community.

My name is Luis, and I learned about the Leadership Group from a colleague I met at Buena Vista Horace Mann. She explained to me about the purpose of the group and what I would learn.

I was able to join the group since they met in the morning when I was free. I started a week after the others. During the group meetings, we discussed different topics and resources found in our community and how to access them. It was a wonderful experience for me, since as a group we were able to express different opinions and learn from each other.

Lucia was the person in charge of the group and she is a magnificent leader. She explains things very well and is kind. Thanks to her and the different members who rotated giving classes, I learned much and I would like to continue to learn more. They taught us how to take notes and express ourselves, plus offered tips on how to manage our finances and improve my ability to speak in public.

At MEDA, there are many programs and workshops. They make us feel that we are not alone. Unfortunately with the COVID-19 crisis we are going through now, we are experiencing it. Without the help of these organizations, many people would be lost and without help.



Jennifer draws her new home.

HAPPY IN MY NEW HOME

We asked Jennifer, a fourth-grader from Sanchez Elementary School, about her family's new home. This family was able to move into their affordable home after applying to the below-market-rate (BMR) rentals that are available from the City. Jennifer was able to share with us a few sentences and drawings of what she feels.

"I feel happy in my new house because I'm with my family and because I have my own space to do art and my homework and because it's pretty."

During this crisis, MEDA continues to help people apply to BMR housing opportunities.



Nancy, Isolina and Dannhae receive the grant.

THE WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUND HELPED ME IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MY BUSINESS

My name is Isolina Fuentes and I am the owner of Isolina's Childcare Preschool in San Francisco.

Before I opened my own business, I gained experience as a child care provider for different organizations such as Good Samaritan, CARECEN, PODER and Mujeres Unidas y Activas. I would take care of the children while the parents were attending meetings or classes at different sites.

I soon realized the great need for more child care centers catering to the needs of Spanish-speaking parents. That's why in 1993 I embarked on my professional journey as a family-based child care provider through CDEV classes and, in 2005, I officially opened my own daycare.

One of the main reasons I was motivated to apply for the San Francisco Women's Entrepreneurship Fund (SFWEF) was because as a child care provider and teacher, I always envisioned a safe environment where children can feel happy, where parents feel trust and where teachers are responsible for helping children develop into well-balanced individuals.

I wanted to improve the outdoor activities area with appropriate equipment to create a health and safety environment, as a means to increase the scores in several quality assessments and also continue providing quality programming for current and future families enrolled in our program.

Since 2011, I have known of MEDA's Business Development Program. I had worked with a coach at MEDA for the creation of our first Parent Handbook, as well as the LIIF grant to improve FCCER assessment outcomes; however, it was through my partnership with Mission Promise Neighborhood's Early Learning team that I learned more about the San Francisco Women's

Entrepreneurship Fund (SFWEF) grant and was reconnected to MEDA's business program to assist me in the application process. I also received support from other community partners such as Instituto Familiar de la Raza and, most importantly, from the parents with whom I work with and my family members.

On November 5, 2019, to our great surprise, we were granted the funds and at the beginning of this year began construction of the project to renovate the playground.

My message to other women entrepreneurs who happen to be child care providers and wish to apply for the grant is, "Be patient with yourself, persistent and consistent and to let your passion to work with children guide you to achieve your goals as a child care provider and teacher. The grant is a resource that will help you achieve that!"

Due to the crisis that we're going through, we haven't had a chance to continue with the renovations. We hope that as soon as they take place we can share them with everyone.



THE PROMISE COMMITTEE

From left: Alejandro, Ana, Pedro, Mariana, Liz, Dannhae, and Flor. Our mission is to share accomplishments and stories by students, families and partner organizations that are part of our network. The Promise Newsletter will be published quarterly, so the next one will be on Summer, 2020. If you have an idea or would like to share your story, contact Alejandro at (415) 282-3334 ext. 126 or abautista@medasf.org.