

La Prensa de Mi Pueblo

Vol. XXV, No. 1 The Newsletter of Mi Pueblo, the Culture Camp of Concern for Children, Inc. Abril 2021

Notas del Director

Notes from the Director
Bill Gruber

We are back! After a difficult year, and our first virtual Camp in 2020, our families have asked to go back to an in-person Camp this year.

So, we are planning a safe and healthy Camp, following, and even exceeding, Covid rules and guidelines.

But our home of 27 years, Forest Hill Church, was just not ready to allow us back (they have not had in-person worship services for over a year).

We have been fortunate to find a new home for Camp for 2021 – at **Andrew's Osborne Academy** -- a day and boarding school for elementary through high school children. I suggest you go to their website at andrewsosborne.org and look at the video of the campus.

We have also made a group reservation at a new hotel -- the **Staybridge Suites in Mayfield Heights**, which

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Questions?

If you have any questions at any time about Mi Pueblo or just want to talk to someone about Camp, contact:

Bill Gruber, Director
216-371-3570;
gruberWL@aol.com; or
Peg LeRoy, Human Resources Coordinator
920-680-8837;
peg.leroy@yahoo.com

Festivales y Momentos Felices –

Festivals and Happy Moments! Register Today.

Mi Pueblo will return to an in-person Camp this year, with many changes from past years to be sure it is safe and healthy. So, it is time for **Campers and ALL volunteers and instructors** to register. The 29th Mi Pueblo Day Camp will be held the week of **June 21 to 25, 2021**, at a new and beautiful location:

Andrews Osborne Academy
38588 Mentor Avenue
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

The Camp hours will be **9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**, Monday thru Friday. The annual Fiesta will be a scaled-down event on Friday afternoon.

This year's Camp Theme is **"Festivals and Happy Moments."** Appropriately, after our virtual Camp last year, and all we have been through the past year, we will start the week on the **Monday** of Camp with a Latin American New Year's celebration.

We will then progress thru the week exploring various festivals and special occasions commonly celebrated in Latin America: **Tuesday** – unique festivals like Dia de los Muertos in Mexico and Inti Raymi in Peru; **Wednesday** - milestones like birthdays, graduations and even a child's loss of a tooth; **Thursday** – Los Reyes Magos (Three Kings Day), and Semana Santa (Holy Week); **Friday** – Parrandas de Puerto Rico.

All campers, teen and young adult volunteers, and parent and other adult volunteers, including Teachers, **MUST** be registered for Camp! Get started by filling out the forms sent with this La Prensa, including **Camper/Volunteer/Teacher Registration Form** and the **Camper/Volunteer/Teacher Information Form**.

Camp fees are the same as in 2019. For the Volunteer discount a parent must volunteer all 5 days at Camp. There are also scholarships available, lowering the fees by 50 to 100% depending on need. ***Mi Pueblo* wants everyone to attend and no one to be excluded due to cost.**

The fees for Camp include a T-shirt, lunch, and snack each day, take home gifts, classes and special events each day. Note, that once you register for Camp, you will receive a mailing in June with all the key information you will need for Camp.

As you fill out the forms, please consider volunteering to help plan and organize the Camp. Also, we need you to help **set up Camp on Saturday, June 19 (and maybe on Sunday, June 20 as well)** – the times are to be decided.

29th Mi Pueblo
June 21 - 25, 2021

This year we really need help since we are moving to a new location and do not

know yet all we may need to do to get the Camp ready, and how much time we will have. The set-up day will also give Camp families the chance to see our new home for the 2021 Camp.

Also, on **Sunday, June 20th**, at 6 pm the evening before Camp, we will have our annual volunteer and Camp family get together, though we will get together by Zoom for this event again this year.

There are many ways to help -- donations of raffle/auction items, baking desserts, setting-up/cleaning-up, and money donations – are all vital to make the Camp special and allow everyone to participate.

Important Dates!

Mark your calendars for these important dates and become an active part of *Mi Pueblo '21*. Planning meetings are generally held at 3:00 p.m. on Sundays by Zoom. Anyone interested in helping is welcome!

May 2 – Planning Meeting
May 31 – Registration Deadline for Camp
June 2 – Planning Meeting
June 7 – Payment/Registration Deadline
Sat., June 19 – Camp Set-up TBA
Sun., June 20 – Set-up (Tentative-TBA)
Sun., June 20 – 6 p.m. - Volunteer Meeting (by Zoom)
June 21 – 25 - Mi Pueblo '21

Keep up to date on Facebook or at MiPuebloCamp.org!

Volunteers Make Mi Pueblo

Mi Pueblo's success comes from many people contributing their time and talent both before and during the week of camp. The Planning Committee needs your help! Just fill out the volunteer form or contact Bill Gruber, Peg LeRoy, or Liz Dessoffy, or you can show up for a Planning Committee meeting.

As you can see from the box to the right, we still have a number of staff positions open. We also still need help both before and during Camp.

Our teachers this year are:

- Culture – Elia de la Garza
- Games – David Dessoffy
- Dance – OPEN
- Crafts – Mariela Silberberg
- Music – Patricia Bussert
- Spanish – Luz Elena Klopp

Note: Staff assignments subject to change.

Administrative & Instructional Staff

Camp Director – Bill Gruber

Asst. – OPEN

Volunteer Coord. – Liz Dessoffy

Human Resources Coord. – Peg LeRoy

Flex Staff Coord. – Liz Dessoffy

Treasurer – Claudia Madden

Operations Coord. – Cindy Palus

Curriculum Coord. – Ana Burpee

Camp Nurse – OPEN

La Prensa Editor – Hope Carroll

Assts. –

Fiesta & Recipe Booklet – OPEN

Special Events Coord. – Cindy Palus

Photographer – Laura Blake

AV Specialist –

Fiesta –

Fiesta Raffle/Silent Auction –

Fiesta Stage Manager – OPEN

Camp Sales Coord. – OPEN

Costumes Coord. –

Teen Coord. – Andy Brooks

Food Purch. Coord. – OPEN

Desserts Coords. – OPEN

Kitchen Coords. – Donna Strok, Pat Burns, Claudia Madden

Assts –

Child Care – OPEN

Camper Homeroom Staff:

Homerooms –

Pre-K, K –

Coord. –

Assts. –

1st, 2nd, 3rd - Coord –

Assts. –

4th, 5th, 6th –

Coord. –

Assts. –

7th, 8th (Senior Campers) –

Coord. –

Assts. –

VIT (9th) –

Coord. –

Asst. –

Assistant Teachers:

Crafts –

Culture –

Music –

Spanish –

Games –

Dance –

Mi Pueblo Contest!!

To get everyone thinking about our 29th Camp theme, *Mi Pueblo* is again having a contest. This year we will explore “**Festivales y Momentos Felices – Festivals and Happy Moments**” in Latin America.

THINK & RESEARCH about what celebrations children and families enjoy in Latin America (see the daily themes on pg. 4) -- or create your own story or picture about how you and your family celebrate traditions and happy moments during the year.

Then fill out the form below and attach it to your work so we know who you are and submit by **Wednesday, June 23rd**.

Two prizes—one for stories and one for art work—will be awarded in eight age categories. The contest is open to all *Mi Pueblo* Camp families and volunteers. Prizes include tote bags, hats, books and other surprises. Written essays need to be limited to no more than 100 words. All entries will be judged by a panel of *Mi Pueblo* teachers. Winners will be announced Friday, June 25.

Mi Pueblo

“Festivales y Momentos Felices – Festivals and Happy Moments.”

Contest Entry Form

Please include this information with every entry to the *Mi Pueblo* “**Festivales y Momentos Felices – Festivals and Happy Moments**” Contest. If your entry is an essay, make it **no more than 100 words**. Be sure to include the full name of the entrant.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Grade (entering Fall 2021) ___ Pre-K-K ___ 1-2 ___ 3-4 ___ 5-6 ___ 7-8 ___ VIT (9th) ___ Teen ___ Adult

Write a short story/essay or create a picture that depicts one of our daily themes (see the list on pg. 4).

This entry represents: _____

Mail your entry to: Bill Gruber, 2714 Leighton Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120, email to GruberWL@aol.com, or **hand it in to the Camp Office** by **noon, June 23rd**, the third day of Camp.

Key Facts About *Mi Pueblo* Culture Camp '21

Name: *Mi Pueblo* – Means “My People, My Village or My Nation.”

NEW Camp Location: Andrews Osborne Academy, 38588 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby, Ohio 44094,
Telephone: 440-942-3600

Dates: Monday through Friday, June 21 - 25, 2021.

Times: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday Night Fiesta: No evening Fiesta this year.

Ages: Camp classes are offered for: (1) children entering **Pre-school/Kindergarten** in the Fall of 2021 through those entering **6th grade**, (2) Senior Campers who are entering **7th and 8th grade**, and (3) those entering the **9th grade** in the Fall of 2021 (who are called **Volunteers in Training (VITs)**.) Teens entering the **10th grade** in the Fall of 2021 **or older** are encouraged to become **Teen Volunteers**. **10th graders and new teen volunteers are Interns who will be trained and be assigned as flex staff.** Older teens and adult volunteers are assigned specific responsibilities. A special Teen Volunteer program may be planned.

Day Care: No day care is being provided this year. However, children **under the age of 2** may attend with a parent as long as child is under the care of the parent at all times. Children **2 and 3 years of age and older** may participate either with child care or in the **Pre-K/Kindergarten** Class as a regular Camper if the child is ready for a schedule of classes and activities. Staff will reach out to all parents of these children to discuss the options.

Fees: Campers (including Senior Campers) - **\$220/child**. Campers of parent volunteers - **\$180/child** (volunteers must hold significant pre-Camp position or work all 5 days at camp). Campers of members of Planning Committee - **\$140/child**. Volunteers-in-Training (entering 9th grade) - **\$150**.

Scholarships: **Concern for Children does not want to have any child miss the opportunity to attend camp. Therefore, need-based scholarships are available.** To apply, send a written request to Bill Gruber, 2714 Leighton Road, Shaker Heights, OH 44120 or gruberwl@aol.com.

Payment of Fees: FEES MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 15th, BUT PLEASE SEND IN REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REGISTRATION FORMS SUBMITTED AFTER **MAY 31st** REQUIRE A **\$20 LATE FEE**.

Sponsor: *Mi Pueblo*, a summer Culture Camp for adopted children from Latin America and their siblings, is sponsored by **Concern for Children, Inc.**, an Ohio not-for-profit corporation, which is a parent support group for adoptive families. **ALL CAMP FAMILIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF CONCERN FOR CHILDREN, INC. — SIMPLY ADD YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO YOUR REGISTRATION FORM — THANK YOU!**

Registration: *Mi Pueblo* has limited space. **Registering now is the only way to guarantee a place for your child. You can register and pay at [Mi PuebloCamp.org](http://MiPuebloCamp.org).** You will receive more Camp details in early June. Refunds of 100% will be made no later than May 31st, 50% no later than June 15th, 25% no later than June 21st. **ABSOLUTELY NO CAMPER REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 7th. REGISTRATION FORMS SUBMITTED AFTER MAY 31st REQUIRE A LATE FEE OF \$20. PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY JUNE 15th.**

Housing: *Mi Pueblo* has many options for out-of-town families who need housing. Whatever you choose, **MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY.** Most *Mi Pueblo* families like staying together. This year we have great rates of \$109 (Studio Queen/sofa bed) and \$119 (One bedroom/2 doubles) per night at the **Staybridge Suites Cleveland East in Mayfield Heights**, with a limited number of rooms available at these rates, so make your reservation early; the rate is only available until **May 21st**. Call for reservations at, 1-440-442-9200. Ask for the “*Mi Pueblo* Culture Camp” rate. You can also reserve rooms online at their website. The Online group code is: MPC. If you have trouble, contact Peg Le Roy at: peg.leroy@yahoo.com. NOTE: The dormitory at Andrew’s Osborne Academy may be rented for \$250/night for one dorm house with 10 single bedrooms and kitchen facility. If you would like to explore the dorm or other options, contact Bill Gruber at gruberWL@aol.com.

More Notes from the Camp Director (Continued from p. 1)

is 15 miles, and 21 minutes from Andrews. Both are very close to I-271 and I-90.

The hotel is just 7 miles and less than 15 minutes from the North Chagrin Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks (a large and beautiful natural park with a nature center.) It is also just ½ hour from Mentor Headlands Beach on Lake Erie, a very wide and mile long sandy beach with changing rooms, restrooms, grills and picnic tables, and a nature preserve.

This year’s Camp will be different from past years, though still filled with fun and educational classes and programs. There will likely be boxed/bag lunches – the kitchen crew is already at work making plans (they could use help!) We will not have a Fiesta the last evening of Camp, but instead have a Fiesta-light celebration on the Friday afternoon of Camp with fewer guests.

Volunteers are always important, but never so much as this year. There is much to do and little time, and a new Camp location. Please consider helping before Camp, especially the weekend prior, as well as during the week of Camp.

I hope to see you soon---but if you are not ready to come back this year, I hope to see you next year!

Bill

Mi Pueblo Fundraising

Camp fees are never enough to cover the expenses of Mi Pueblo Camp. Also, we provide full and partial scholarships each year to ensure that no family is turned away due to an inability to pay the fees. Mi Pueblo relies on direct donations and various fundraising efforts.

Auction

Please consider donating items for our annual auction (which will either be live or online - to be announced). We can use tickets to events and sport contests, gift certificates, items from Latin America, etc. Contact Cindy Palus if you have any items to donate: dcpalus5@aol.com.

Concern for Children

Concern for Children, Inc. is the non-profit parent organization of Mi Pueblo Camp. CFC has helped support the Camp since its start. That alone should be a good reason why all Camp families should **join CFC as a member** (it's only \$30 per year). It is easy to do thru your Camp Registration Form. In addition, CFC has helped families who have adopted children in Latin America in the US for 40 years, and continues to help families and children in Latin America.

Volunteers New to Mi Pueblo

All new volunteers will be asked to submit a resume, will be interviewed and will undergo a background check (see above). In addition, all volunteers new to Mi Pueblo must complete a 4-hour training program offered during Camp week. Once a new volunteer has submitted their volunteer registration form, they will receive an email on the next steps.

Background Checks:

Those required to have a background check will be contacted after registration.

FutureCamp Committee

The Committee is continuing its work --- if you are willing to volunteer, contact Hope Carroll hopecarrollhope@gmail.com. With enrollment in the younger Camp grades falling, fewer adoptees coming into the US from Latin America, and Mi Pueblo leadership aging and their children moving on, the Planning Committee believes the Camp needs to take a serious look at the future of Mi Pueblo, with the goal of keeping the Camp going and keeping it strong.

The Future Camp Committee is chaired by Hope Carroll, and other members are Becky Parr, Carolyn Holland, and Bill Gruber. We have been reaching out to families formed by adoption with children of Latino heritage, even if adopted in the US, and to the Latino communities in Ohio. We will focus on adoption, foster, and government agencies, and adoption support groups. We agreed to "cast a wide net". We also need to develop job descriptions and consider how to divide up jobs (including for in-town and out of town volunteers).

Keep up to date on Facebook or at MiPuebloCamp.org!

Needed:

- **Help to update and maintain the Camp website.**
- **Teen and young adult volunteers willing to help out with the opening ceremony. Please let us know if you will help out.**

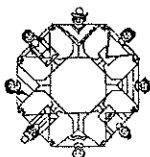
2021 Camp Theme

Festivales y Momentos Felices – Festivals and Happy Moments

Each year we have a new theme at Camp to keep the curriculum fresh and bring excitement to the week. This year's Camp theme is "**Festivales y Momentos Felices – Festivals and Happy Moments.**" As the week progresses, we will explore Latin American celebrations and momentous occasions for children and families. The daily themes are listed below. [Note the order and name for each daily theme is subject to change]

Daily Themes:

- Monday – New Year's Celebrations
- Tuesday – Festivals (such as Dia de los Muertos and Inti Raymi)
- Wednesday – Milestones (such as birthdays, graduations and even losing a tooth)
- Thursday – Los Reyes Magos (Three Kings or Wisemen), and Semana Santa (Holy Week)
- Friday – Parrandas in Puerto Rico (Christmas celebrations of parties and music, the traditions of the jibaros)



Mi Pueblo Day Camp
Sponsored by Concern for Children, Inc.
www.concernforchildren.org
Bill Gruber, Director
2714 Leighton Road