

La Prensa de Mi Pueblo

Vol. XXVI, No. 1 The Newsletter of Mi Pueblo, the Culture Camp of Concern for Children, Inc. Abril 2022

Notas del Director

Notes from the Director
Bill Gruber

It is so exciting to be back at **Forest Hill Church** in Cleveland Heights after two years away (one virtual and one at Andrews Osborne Academy)! The Church has been our home for 28 out of our 30 years of *Mi Pueblo*.

We are planning a safe and healthy Camp, and a special celebration for *Mi Pueblo's* 30th Anniversary.

We are also back at the **Embassy Suites Hotel** for out of town and other families with a group reservation. We will also all gather at the Embassy Suites for our **Orientation Meeting on Sunday, June 19th at 6 pm** for our annual pizza party for everyone---whether you are staying at the Hotel or not---to socialize and introduce ourselves.

The good news is that Camper fees are the SAME as they have been since 2019. But the Teen Volunteer fee first instituted in 2019 is back. And with rising

(Continued on page 3)

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

Encanto – The Enchanted Village of Mi Pueblo 30 years of Magic - Treinta Años Mágicos

It is time for Campers, Teens and ALL volunteers and instructors to register for our 30th *Mi Pueblo* Day Camp which will be held the week of **June 20 to 24, 2022**, at Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.

The Camp hours will be **9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**, Monday-Thursday, with early release on Friday. The annual **Fiesta** will be a special occasion on **Friday, June 24th from 6:30-10 pm** at Forest Hill Church.

This year's Camp Theme, naturally, is **"Encanto-The Enchanted Village of Mi Pueblo."**

Appropriately, for our big 30th Anniversary celebrate the magic starting on the

Monday of Camp with a look into the Latin American home and traditions.

We will then progress thru the week meeting the characters from the film *Encanto*, exploring adventures in nature, like the beautiful world of *Encanto*, celebrating the powers and talents of our Campers as they explore their own magic, and finally wondering in our own enchanted village of *Mi Pueblo*.

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 the **Camper/Teen/Volunteer/Teacher Registration Form**, and the **Camper/Teen/Volunteer/Teacher Information Form**.

Camp fees are the same as last year, with the addition of the Teen Program fee, and new modest fees for adult volunteers, and for the Fiesta. For the Volunteer discount a parent must volunteer all 5 days at Camp. Scholarships are available, 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. We really need help with a new Teen Program and with a very special Fiesta celebration. Planning is going on now --- so there are ways you can help before Camp.

Help is needed on **Friday, June 17th at 6 pm** to load up the truck that carries our

Camp supplies from the Palus home in Parma to the Church.

Also, we need you to help **set up Camp on Saturday, June 18, from 9 am to 12 noon, and Sunday, June 19, from 12 noon to 3 pm.**

On **Sunday, June 19th**, at 6 pm, the evening before Camp, we will have our annual volunteer and Camp family get together (and pizza party) at Embassy Suites Hotel in Beachwood.

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 '22*.

May 1 - Planning Meeting - 3 pm by Zoom
May 31 - Registration Deadline for Camp
June 12 - Planning Meeting - 3 pm by Zoom
June 7 - Payment/Registration Deadline
Fri. June 17 - Pack up Truck - 6 pm Palus'
Sat., June 18 - Camp Set-up - 9 - 12 noon
Sun., June 19 - 12 noon - 3 pm
Sun., June 19 - 6 p.m. - Orientation Meeting - at Embassy Suites Hotel
Mon. - Fri., June 20 - 24 - *Mi Pueblo '22*
Fri. June 20 - *Fiesta* - 6:30 - 10 pm

Keep up to date on Facebook or at [MiPuebloCamp.org!](http://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 Dessofoy, 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 Dessofoy
Dance – Mónica Cerpa
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 Dessofoy
Human Resources Coord. – Peg LeRoy
Flex Staff Coord. – Liz Dessofoy
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. –
Food Purch. Coord. – OPEN
Desserts Coords. – OPEN
Kitchen Coords.
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 – Jeanne Markusic
Music – Kathy Hazelton
Spanish – Anthony Hudspath
Games – Doug Palus, Jon Wertz
Dance – Alyssa Cerpa, Paul Manzo

Mi Pueblo Contest!!

To get everyone thinking about our 30th Camp theme, *Mi Pueblo* is again having a contest. This year we will celebrate “**Encanto – The Enchanted Village of Mi Pueblo.**” We will explore the magic of the Latin American village and home.

THINK & RESEARCH about the characters from the film *Encanto*, and consider your power or talent and how you like to contribute to your family and hometown, or consider how *Mi Pueblo* Camp becomes our magical village and home for a week each year and brings us all together.

Draw a picture or write a short story about your favorite *Encanto* character, about your own power or talent, how you help your family or hometown, or about the magic of *Mi Pueblo*.

Then fill out the form below and attach it to your work so we know who you are and submit by **Wednesday, June 22nd**.

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 24.

Mi Pueblo

Encanto – The Enchanted Village of Mi Pueblo

30 years of Magic - Treinta Años Mágicos

Contest Entry Form

Please include this information with every entry to the *Mi Pueblo* “**Encanto – The Enchanted Village of Mi Pueblo**” 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 2022) ___ 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

Key Facts About *Mi Pueblo* Culture Camp '22

Camp Location: Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd. (corner of Monticello Blvd. and Lee Rd.), Cleveland Hts., OH (Mi Pueblo has rented the Church's facilities for 28 years.)

Dates: Monday through Friday, June 20 - 24, 2022.

Times: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (early dismissal on Friday TBA)

Friday Night Fiesta: June 20th - 6:30 - 10 p.m. at Forest Hill Church.

Ages: Camp classes are offered for: (1) children entering Pre-school/Kindergarten in the Fall of 2022 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 2022 (who are called **Volunteers in Training (VITs)**.)

Child Care: Child care is being provided this year. 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. Teens in the Teen Program (See below) - \$100. Adult Volunteers \$50 if no Camper registered/\$25 if 1 or more Camper registered. **Fiesta** - \$20 each adult attendee (18 and over); Payment of Camp fee gives adults/teens one free ticket for each fee paid.

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.

Registration: *You can register by mailing or emailing in your registration forms, and send a check or pay at Mi PuebloCamp.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 20th. NO CAMPER REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 7th. FORMS SUBMITTED AFTER MAY 31st REQUIRE A LATE FEE OF \$20. PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY JUNE 15th.

NEW Teen Program: *Mi Pueblo* is excited to announce a new teen program for 2022!! The goal of the program is to balance the work and fun of Camp. The Teen Program will consist of: 1. Volunteering, 2. Organized activities, and 3. Socializing. There will be cooking classes, team building games, dance troupe, forums led by alumni and special guests, and much more. It'll be a memorable week and *Mi Pueblo* looks forward to your teen's participation in the program. **Those teens entering 10th grade (called Interns) will automatically be enrolled in this new program. Teens entering 11th grade and 12th grade and those who graduated this year (2022) have the choice to enroll in the teen program or to instead work as full-time volunteers in a homeroom or class.** To cover the costs of this program, we are bringing back the Camp teen fee of \$100 for those entering 10th grade and those (11th, 12th, and graduates) who choose to enroll instead of volunteering full-time. For teens who register to volunteer full-time, there is an adult/teen volunteer fee of \$50. For any questions or comments, please contact Dennis Ward at dward8@gmail.com or Ana Burpee at bmariana12@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in June.

Sponsor: *Mi Pueblo* 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!**

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 a great rate of \$115/night at the **Embassy Suites in Beachwood**, with a limited number of rooms available at this rate, so make your reservation early; the rate is only available until **Sunday, June 5th**. Call for reservations at, 1-800-317-1960. Ask for the "*Mi Pueblo* Culture Camp" rate, \$115/night. If you have trouble, contact Hope Carroll at: hopecarrollhope@gmail.com. If you would like to explore other options, contact Bill Gruber at gruberWL@aol.com.

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

costs for food, supplies and other needs for Camp, we have instituted a new modest fee for all volunteers at Camp. There is also a small fee for all adults attending the Fiesta---though payment of a Camp fee gives adults, and teens 18 and over, one free ticket for each fee paid.

The Camp fees are never sufficient to pay all the expenses of Camp, so we depend upon donations and sales of raffle tickets, and bids on the silent auction, at the Fiesta in order to provide a fun, exciting, educational, authentic and safe Camp experience. *Mi Pueblo* provides scholarships for families (and for any fees) to ensure that no one is ever turned away for lack of funds.

We are also an all-volunteer Camp, and so lots of helpers are needed – please consider volunteering---even if you can't attend during the week of Camp. I hope to see you soon! 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. Mi Pueblo is operated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and donations are tax deductible. CHECK WITH YOUR EMPLOYER TO SEE IF YOUR DONATION COULD BE MATCHED BY YOUR EMPLOYER.

Auction and Raffle

Please consider donating items for our annual silent auction and raffle to be held at the Fiesta. 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. 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.

The Committee is considering recommendations regarding how Camp is structured, whether it remains a week-long Camp or becomes a long weekend, whether more of the activities become family activities, and how we can keep the teens active and interested.

We also need to develop job descriptions and consider how to divide up jobs (including for in-town and out of town volunteers). Succession planning for leadership roles is critical as the current leaders age and/or their children are no longer involved with Camp. Our main goal is to engage former Campers and other young adult Latinos to take over key positions at Camp.

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

Needed:

- **Volunteers—teens and adults—to help pack the truck with supplies the Friday before Camp, and to come and help set up on Saturday and Sunday that weekend (June 17-19)**
- **Teen and young adult volunteers willing to help out with the opening ceremony. Please let us know if you will help out.**
- **Teens and young adults willing to help out with other activities during Camp week.**

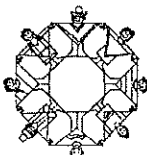
2022 Camp Theme

Encanto – The Enchanted Village of Mi Pueblo “30 years of Magic” - “Treinta Años Mágicos”

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 “**Encanto – The Enchanted Village of Mi Pueblo.**” As the week progresses, we will explore the magic of the Latin American village and home. The daily themes are listed below.
[Note the order and name for each daily theme is subject to change]

Daily Themes:

Monday – Home and traditions
Tuesday – Meet the characters from Encanto
Wednesday – Adventure in Nature
Thursday – Encanto eres tu! (You are magical!) – Your power or talent
Friday – Nuestro Pueblo Encanto (Our enchanted village)



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