

La Prensa de Mi Pueblo

Vol. XXVIII, No. 1 The Newsletter of Mi Pueblo, the Culture Camp of Concern for Children, Inc. Abril 2024

Notas del Director

Notes from the Director
Bill Gruber

Welcome back or, for new families, welcome for the first time to Mi Pueblo Camp!

We have another fun and exciting Camp being planned, and YOU can be part of the planning wherever you live, and whatever time and talents you have to give. Attend the Planning Committee meetings, by Zoom, from anywhere. Two more coming up in May and June.

We also need volunteers for many positions before and at Camp. Mi Pueblo is an all-volunteer Camp, so nothing happens without our volunteers. Please help.

This year brings our 3rd Teen Program. Teens entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade, in the fall of 2024, and those teens who just graduated in 2024 from high school, are eligible to participate. Teens MUST be registered.

Come to Camp the weekend before Camp to help get ready — children are welcome.

(Continued on page 4)

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

216-870-2429;

gruberWL@aol.com; or

Peg LeRoy, Human Resources Coordinator

920-680-8837;

peg.leroy@yahoo.com

Latino Superheroes – Superheroes Latinos

It is time for Campers, Teens and ALL volunteers and instructors to register for our 32nd Mi Pueblo Day Camp which will be held the week of **June 17 to 21, 2023**, 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. Friday hours are **9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** The annual **Fiesta** will be held on **Friday, June 21st from 6:30-10 pm** at Forest Hill Church.

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

“Latino Superheroes”. As the week progresses, we will learn about Latino “superhero” artists, chefs, musicians, athletes, social activists, leaders, and others who have changed the world, and explore our own inner “superhero”.

We begin on **Monday** with our annual opening ceremony, and some questions – what is a superhero and who are Latino superheroes? On **Tuesday** we look for our inner Frida (i.e. Mexican artist Frida Kahlo) to find the artist, chef, musician, or other talent within ourselves. **Wednesday** we learn about the leaders and inspirational activists of Latino heritage. We'll also celebrate at our now annual picnic in the Park. On **Thursday** we will celebrate and cheer for our favorite Latino athlete superhero. And on **Friday** all Campers will be superheroes and look to the future to change the world! We will also have our Fiesta dress rehearsal, early dismissal, and then return for the annual Fiesta on Friday evening.

All campers, teen and young adult volunteers, and parent and other adult volunteers, including Teachers, MUST be registered for Camp! **This year you can register online at the link on p. 3, or through mipueblocamp.org.**

Or you can fill out the forms on the website and email or mail them in. Everyone must submit 2 forms: Registration Form, and the Information Form.

Camp fees are the same as last year. A Volunteer discount is available for parents who volunteer all 5 days at Camp. Scholarships are also available. **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 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. Help is needed on **Saturday, June 15th at 8:30 am** to load up the truck to carry our Camp supplies from the storage locker to the Church.

Also, we need you to help **set up Camp** on **Saturday, June 15, from 9 am to 12 noon, and Sunday, June 16, from 12 noon to 3 pm. On Sunday, June 16th, 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.

Important Dates!

Mark your calendars for these important dates and become an active part of *Mi Pueblo '24*.

May 5 – Planning Meeting – 3 pm by Zoom

May 31 – Registration Deadline for Camp

June 2 – Planning Meeting – 3 pm by Zoom

June 7 – Payment/Registration Deadline

Sat. June 15 – Pack up Truck – 8:30 am

Sat., June 15 – Camp Set-up – 9 – 12 noon

Sun., June 16 – 12 noon - 3 pm

Sun., June 16 – 6 p.m. - Orientation

Meeting – at Embassy Suites Hotel

Mon. -Fri., June 17 – 21 - Mi Pueblo '24

Fri. June 21 – Fiesta – 6:30 – 10 pm

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

**32nd Mi Pueblo
June 17 - 21, 2024**

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 many staff positions open. We also still need help both before and during Camp.

Our teachers this year are:

- Culture** – Elia de la Garza
- Games** – Cristina Echeverria and Evan Cordle
- Dance** – Mónica Cerpa
- Crafts** – Mariela Silberberg
- Music** – Patricia Bussert
- Spanish** – Luz Elena Klopp
- Teen Program** – Lizbeth Broache

Administrative & Instructional Staff

- Camp Director** – Bill Gruber
- Assistant Director** – David Brooks
- Human Resources Coord.** - Peg LeRoy
- Treasurer** - Claudia Madden
- Curriculum Coord.** – Ana Burpee
- Homeroom Coord.** – Grant Cordle
- Operations Coord.** – David Dessoffy
- Volunteer Coord.** – Liz Dessoffy
- Teen Program Coord.** – Andy Brooks
- Office Assistant** – Jeanne Cullen
- La Prensa Editor** – Becky Parr
- Fiesta & Recipe Booklet** - OPEN
- Special Events Coord.** – Ana Burpee
- Photographer** – Laura Blake
- T-Shirts** – Claudia Madden
- Fiesta** –
- Raffle/Silent Auction** -
- Fiesta Stage Manager** – OPEN
- Costumes Coord.** – OPEN
- Food Purch. Coord.** – OPEN
- Desserts Coord.** – OPEN
- Kitchen Coord.** – Pat Burns
- Camp Nurse** - OPEN

Camper Homeroom Staff:

- Pre-K** – OPEN
- K – 1** - Carrie Wagner, Shannon Harris
- 3 - 4** - Coord – Geri Butt
- 5** – Coord. - Kelly Ream
- 6 – 7** = Coord. – Paul Manzo
- 8 – 9** - Coord. – Brian Collins

Teen Coord. – Andy Brooks

Note: Staff assignments subject to change.

Mi Pueblo Contest!!

To get everyone thinking about our 32nd Camp theme, *Mi Pueblo* is again having a contest. This year we will celebrate **“Latino Superheroes.”** We will learn about and celebrate the artists, athletes, musicians, chefs, social activists, leaders, and other superheroes of Latin America and the U.S. of Latino heritage.

THINK & RESEARCH about Latinos in everyday life, who live among us, but do extraordinary things in their lives and careers to help the world be a better place. *Draw a picture or write a short story about your favorite Latino Superhero. Or tell us what kind of superhero do you want to be?*

Then fill out the form below and attach it to your work so we know who you are and submit by **Wednesday, June 19th.** 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 21.

Mi Pueblo

Latino Superheroes – Superheroes Latinos Contest Entry Form

Please include this information with every entry to the *Mi Pueblo* **“Latino Superheroes – Superheroes Latinos”** 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 2024) ___ Pre-K ___ K-1 ___ 3-4 ___ 5 ___ 6-7 ___ 8-9 ___ 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 19th**, the third day of Camp.

Key Facts About *Mi Pueblo* Culture Camp '24

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 32 years.)

Dates: Monday through Friday, June 17 - 21, 2024.

Times: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (early dismissal on Friday – hours 9:30-3:00 p.m.)

Friday Night Fiesta: June 21st - 6:30 - 10 p.m. at Forest Hill Church.

Ages: Camp classes are offered for children entering Pre-school/Kindergarten in the Fall of 2024 through those entering 9th grade.

Child Care: Child care is no longer provided due to the lack of volunteers, but parents with children in Camp may volunteer with their child under 2.5 years of age, as long as they keep their child with them.

Pre-K: Children 2.5 years to 4 years may participate in the Pre-K Class as a regular Camper if the child is ready for a half day schedule of classes and activities and half day of play time. Staff will reach out to parents of these children to discuss the options.

Fees: 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. Teens in the Teen Program (See below) - \$100. Adult Volunteers \$50 if no Camper/Teen registered/\$25 if 1 or more Camper/Teen registered.

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 online and/or pay at [Mi PuebloCamp.org](http://MiPuebloCamp.org), or you may register on the forms available at the website or in the email sent to Camp families, and you may mail in a check if preferred. 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.

Teen Program: The goal of the program, in its 3rd year, is to balance the work and fun of Camp. The Teen Program will include: 1. Volunteering, 2. Organized activities, and 3. Socializing. There will be cooking classes, team building games, dance, a forum led by alumni and special guests, and much more. **Teens entering 10th grade will automatically be enrolled in this new program. Teens entering 11th and 12th grade and those who graduated this year (2024) 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, there is a fee of \$100 for participants. For teens who register to volunteer full-time, there is an adult/teen volunteer fee of \$50. For any questions or comments, please contact Ana Burpee at bmariana12@gmail.com, or Andy Brooks at brooks362@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 group rate of \$139/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 Friday, May 31st. Online reservation booking uses our Mi Pueblo Reservation Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/clubhpc-ee658677-504f-404b-b097-7ba414efe7e5/>. Or book by calling 800-317-1960. Give the code MPC. If you have trouble, contact Bill Gruber at gruberWL@aol.com.

Register for Camp:

Camper/Teen/Volunteer/Teacher Registration Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8LJKxrc2_SzK00IENqoyKDJAKKtsSC_BhqxaMJYG_PCsfTw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Camper/Teen/Volunteer/Teacher Information Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9nFbrq07ofKp->

[W0nhTOJjC548uRgHnrX_mN4U5ffKVkmNQQ/viewform?usp=sf_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9nFbrq07ofKp-W0nhTOJjC548uRgHnrX_mN4U5ffKVkmNQQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

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 Bill Gruber if you have any items to donate: GruberWL@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.

Background Checks

Volunteers and Teachers working directly with children in classrooms and homerooms are required to have a background check done semi-annually. You will be contacted after registration if you need a background check. All new volunteers assigned to a homeroom must have a background check and an interview.

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

Needed:

- **Volunteers—teens and adults—to help pack the truck with supplies on Saturday morning before Camp set up, and to come and help set up on Saturday and Sunday that weekend (June 15-16)**
- **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.**

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

Volunteers can also help by making desserts at home and dropping them off, and sewers can help with costumes at home or at Camp. We also need help in the Camp kitchen, organizing the Fiesta, with audio-visual and stage help, and more.

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* also provides scholarships for families (and for any fees) to ensure that no one is ever turned away for lack of funds.

There are lots of ways all of us can work together as the Mi Pueblo family to make the magic continue!

I hope to see you soon! Nos vemos!

Bill

2024 Camp Theme

Latino Superheroes – Superheroes Latinos

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 "**Latino Superheroes**". As the week progresses, we will learn about Latino "superhero" artists, musicians, chefs, athletes, social activists, and others who have changed the world, and explore our own inner "superhero". The daily themes are listed below. [Note the order and name for each daily theme is subject to change]

Daily Themes:

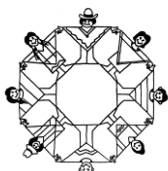
Monday – Who are Latino Superheroes?

Tuesday – Finding your Inner Friday – Celebrating Latino artists, musicians and chefs

Wednesday – Inspirational Latino Superheroes – social activists and leaders

Thursday – Latino athletic heroes

Friday – Camper Superheroes Changing the World



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