

## Mi Escuelita Preschool, Inc.



Gayle Nave, Executive Director  
www.miescuelita.org  
[gnave@miescuelita.org](mailto:gnave@miescuelita.org)  
214.526.0220

Stacy Caldwell, President  
www.dsvp.org  
[scaldwell@dsvp.org](mailto:scaldwell@dsvp.org)  
214.855.5520



### Mission

**Mi Escuelita Preschool teaches English to children from all cultures and prepares them for academic success.**

### Overview

**Description** A child experiences his greatest gains in cognitive language development during the first six years of life. A child who learns a second language during this time will improve their native language skills as well as being predisposed to learning additional languages later in life. As long as a child interacts with speakers of both languages they can learn two languages simultaneously. Children attending Mi Escuelita Preschool are 2½ to 5 years old, an ideal age to learn a second language. Mi Escuelita uses a language immersion model to teach children English, a model that has been shown to be more effective than a bilingual model. After two years at Mi Escuelita children are able to participate in English speaking classrooms.

**Investment Opportunity** Mi Escuelita is seeking \$150,000 to enhance the development and marketing area of the organization by hiring an associate director of development and a full-time volunteer coordinator and to create marketing materials. Mi Escuelita is focused on improving its outreach to the Hispanic market by hiring individuals that closely represent its client population. A large international marketing agency is offering pro bono marketing/PR design and planning as part of this initiative.

**Dallas Social Venture Partners (DSVP)** inducted Mi Escuelita into the portfolio in 2007. DSVP is committed to seeing the mission of Mi Escuelita strengthened and expanded. Our engagement strategy involves building their capacity in the areas of **Evaluation and Outcomes, Board Governance, and Strategic Planning**. Our team of Partners is lead by Lead Partner Tracy Kutch.

### Need for Change

- Over half the children entering first grade in the Dallas Independent School District have limited English proficiency
- In Texas, the number of kindergartners that are held back to repeat the grade has increased 32% since 2000
- Half of all first graders from low income families are already two years behind their peers in their skill set
- The primary reason Hispanic students drop out is poor English proficiency

### Opportunity for Social Impact

Many consider academic proficiency in the third grade to be a strong predictor of a child's later success in school and in life. Mi Escuelita's Class of 2010 of 217 five year olds entered the school system with a higher than average English oral vocabulary and the ability to participate fully in classes taught in English. The economic impact of these children graduating from high school represents millions of dollars in savings in crime related and uninsured health care costs as well as their higher average annual income and tax payments. In 2005 the average annual income of a high school graduate was \$9,634 more than a high school dropout and in addition, a high school dropout is 3.5 times more likely to be incarcerated than a graduate. Mi Escuelita takes a child at risk of becoming a high school dropout and helps him start school a step ahead.

### Program Focus

#### Programs and how they impact your clients

- Parent participation is a key predictor of a child's ability to succeed in school and Mi Escuelita has a 100% parent participation rate.
- Over 50,000 volunteer hours were donated to Mi Escuelita in 2010 helping to reduce costs and more importantly provide positive role models for the children.
- Of the 2,500 licensed child care providers in Dallas only 25 are nationally accredited with The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and 5 of those centers are Mi Escuelita, allowing children from poverty level homes access to the highest caliber of preschool education available.

#### Affecting systemic change by:

- By teaching language through an English immersion model, children develop a much stronger English language skill set.
- Identifying individuals with a strong affinity for working with children and providing education and training for them creates stronger, more effective teachers that tend to stay engaged in the profession much longer than their counterparts.
- Required parent participation engages parents and gives them the tools and desire to be an advocate for their child throughout their academic journey.
- Native language is reinforced at home by providing take-home activities in a child's first language that allows parents to interact and bond with their child.



## Organizational Performance

Data	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population Served	325	354	375	408
Volunteer Hours Donated	45,000	53,000	55,000	57,000
% of Teachers with Advanced Degrees/Credentials	92%	100%	100%	100%
Parent Participation Rates	87%	95%	100%	100%
% of Children Eligible for English Speaking Kindergarten	92%	95%	95%	95%

### Financial

- Every dollar invested in early childhood education saves taxpayers \$13 in future social and welfare expenses.
- \$20 per week funds a child's participation in the comprehensive "Together We Learn" program which increases English language development by over 500%.
- \$50 places 10 books in Mi Escuelita libraries which allow parents to read to their child every night.

### Proven Social Impact

Mi Escuelita's services feature three key components: 1) Early Childhood Education, 2) Family Literacy and 3) Parent Training. The three components work with children and parents separately and together to improve literacy and language skills for both and to strengthen the parent-child bond and make the parent an active partner in their child's education.

- 95% of children are eligible for English only kindergarten classrooms.
- Over 90% of children perform in the upper 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of their classes in third grade.

### Statistics

Current Annual Budget 2011-\$3,250,000  
Annual Budget Projected 2012 -\$3,250,000



### Funders and Collaborations

#### Funders:

- Meadows Foundation
- Bank of America Foundation
- Dallas Women's Foundation
- Hillcrest Foundation
- King Foundation

#### Collaborations:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
- Texas Association for the Education of Young Children
- Dallas County Community College District
- Educational First Steps (EFS) – *Cornerstone Model School*
- Head Start of Greater Dallas
- University of Texas at Dallas
- Dallas County Community Colleges
- University of North Texas
- Dallas Arboretum
- Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico
- Child Care Group
- Buckner Children & Family Services
- Baylor Health Services
- Los Barrios Unidos
- Dallas Concilio
- Texas Women's University (TWU) Health Program



### Ways to Invest

**DSVP Investment to date: \$102,500**  
**Desired Co-Investment: \$65,000**

- \$40,000 funds a volunteer coordinator position.
- \$20,000 provides upgrades to screening tools which detect delays more effectively.
- \$5,000 provides a scholarship to a child to attend Mi Escuelita for one year.
- In-Kind: Warehouse to store off-season items and records, printing services for marketing materials, new phone system.