

Dear Multnomah County Chair Kafoury and Commissioners,

Multnomah County and Catholic Charities – El Programa Hispano (EPH) have had a successful partnership for over 25 years. I invite you to come to our home in Gresham to meet with and learn about the rich and vibrant community we partner with.

Communities of color are often spoken of in a homogenous context – the Latino, African American, Asian, Pacific Islander and many other communities. When communities are labeled in this manner the rich diversity that exists within each community is lost. The Latino community is diverse in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, faith, language and other aspects of identity. It is also diverse in life experience, world view and socio economic capacity and has a strong and growing economic and leadership engine. El Programa Hispano has partnered with a segment of the Latino population that has largely identified as immigrants, mono-lingual Spanish speakers or speak indigenous languages and often face structural barriers such as documentation that create a cycle of trauma unique to our communities' experience of marginalization. El Programa Hispano has developed a trusting relationship with the communities we serve based in servant leadership and cultural humility and have been a trusted hub of culturally-specific wrap around services in East County for over 34 years.

Often mistaken for a program who only offers crisis services, El Programa Hispano offers an array of culturally-specific wrap around services including: community health work, educational support services for youth and adults, cultural enrichment activities, homeless families system of care services, eviction prevention and case management, utilities assistance, information and referral and assistance, employment services and skills development classes, literacy and English classes, financial wellness, parent education classes, health education classes, tax services and a comprehensive DV/SA program that provides the only 24/7 bilingual crisis line in the state of Oregon. Catholic Charities services such as immigration legal services, refugee resettlement and pregnancy support are leveraged and benefit our clients. EPH serves over 15,000 clients per year. We know that no single agency can fill the great need in our community. Therefore, we actively support and seek opportunities to partner with other service providers. Wallace Medical Concern, Central City Concern's Latino mental health Puentes program, Familias en Accion, Legal Aid and The Oregon Law Center and Medical Teams NW all regularly deliver services from our office in the heart of Gresham. Partners want to go to where the community is and know they will find the community at EPH. Additionally, we advocate and participate in systems level change collaboratives such as The Rockwood Pathways Project, which involves over 20 local agencies working together towards collective impact. EPH is excited to support and participate in this collaborative as a navigating agency. EPH participates in partnership with city, county, state, federal, and private funders. Last year half a million dollars raised in private donations supported EPH and county programs and services that directly benefitted the Latino community.

EPH believes in empowering and supporting the community by increasing access to opportunities. This year our VITA program completed 1200 tax returns for low-income Latino clients who are expected to receive over 2.2 million dollars back in returns for families whose average gross adjusted income was \$20,000.00 for a family of four. We also offer a culturally-specific financial wellness workshop and coaching to the community, so that families are economically empowered to make

financial choices that are right for them. Additionally, through our partnership with the Mexican consulate, 13 Latino first generation college students will receive scholarships to achieve their higher education goals. El Programa Hispano has a proven successful partnership with the Latino community.

It is in holding these values and beliefs that we advocate on the behalf of the population we serve. We invite you to come to EPH in Gresham and engage with our community. Our staff will reach out to each of you with an invitation to participate in a meet and greet listening with the EPH clients, staff and newly forming board and executive leadership of El Programa Hispano.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to our diverse and growing Latino community and for your investment in and partnership with El Programa Hispano.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Rojas', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Patricia Rojas

Director El Programa Hispano

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Thaila Nguyen. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 4th grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Basketball, Middle School 101 and Readers Theater, and I have received support with Sportsmanship and acting.

My favorite thing about SUN is The great teachers!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because there is somewhere to go after school, somewhere to learn, and somewhere to do the things I love to do.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Thaila Nguyen

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Ava. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 4th grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as gardening, aka science and Middle School 101, and I have received support with reading and activities.

My favorite thing about SUN is SPORTS!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because it gets you healthy, strong, learn, meet people I have never met.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Ava

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Jesus Garcia Hernandez. I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 3rd. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as basketball, Middle 101 and computer school, and I have received support with teacher and family.

My favorite thing about SUN is basketball!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because it helps me learn more and helps them concentrate more because I am some times loud.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jesus Garcia Hernandez

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Jeremy Carroll. I am 9 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 4th grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as basketball, Middle school and Readers theater, and I have received support with MATH and Reading.

My favorite thing about SUN is Middle school LoL!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because it helps kids learn to step up be confident and helps kids learn more stuff

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Jeremy

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Brandon Le. I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 2015 5th grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as basket ball, middle school 101 and Reader's Theatre, and I have received support with

Basket ball and Math.

My favorite thing about SUN is The Sun showcase!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because I can make new friends, I can give my parents the time to spend there life on, Sun is really fun and I hope a lot more people come and join Sun Sun is the best!

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brandon Le


Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Allie Miller-Reiss. I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 2014-2015 ^{5th grade}. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as middle school 101, gardening and readers theater, and I have received support with reading and speaking in front of a crowd. My favorite thing about SUN is the teachers!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because after school I don't have to waste my time and instead I can still be learning.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Allie Miller-Reiss

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Willow Payne. I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 5th grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Basketball, Middleschool #01 and

Public Speaking and I have received support with physical education and self control.

My favorite thing about SUN is The supportive teachers!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because its a very good after school program that gets you ready for things in the real world. The activities have a purpose not just for playing. The teachers are supportive and are always there for you.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Willow Payne

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Simon Solomon. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 1st or 2nd grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as sports play, basketball and reading stories and I have received support with reading and math. My favorite thing about SUN is hanging out!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because When I was young my mom and dad always had to work and I had to stay home because the parents in Sun

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Simon

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Jasmine Lara. I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 2013. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Middle School 101, Public Speaking and Comic book Making and I have received support with

my self esteem and getting to Middle school.
My favorite thing about SUN is Having fun with everyone ▼▼

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because It helps me to be distracting me from watching tv or not cleaning. It's also a really safe place to be in.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Jasmine Cristal Lara

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Elijah Weygandt I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 4th grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Basketball, Kickball and Soccer, and I have received support with new friends and learning.

My favorite thing about SUN is helping out, MRG

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because so
I can learn more about stuff
and being responsible respectful
and safe

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, by Elijah Weygandt

Mark

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Mark Lucas. I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 5th. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Basketball, Computer Island and Middle School 101, and I have received support with

Basketball and reading.
My favorite thing about SUN is teacher!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because I +
helps me get supported. And make new
friends.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Mark Lucas

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Jennifer A. Savno-Cruz. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in Summer 2014. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Middle School 101, Step / Stomp and Girl Strength, and I have received support with self-confidence and writing.
My favorite thing about SUN is meeting new people!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because sometimes my parents cant find people to take care of me and my siblings. Also, it has helped me make new friends.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Jennifer Abigail Savno-Cruz

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Dalia Santos Alvarado, I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 2013. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as basketball, Scrapbooking and Middle School 101, and I have received support with basketball and writing. My favorite thing about SUN is Middle School 101!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because It made new friends and it helps my parents because they know I'm in after school and I'm also secure. Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Dalia Santos Alvarado

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Luis Osio Taxpan. I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5 grade.

I started participating in SUN in last Year. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Basketball, Middle School 101 and Readers theater and I have received support with Stand up for self and not being shy. My favorite thing about SUN is math!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because It is fun for all of us me and my Brother have's fun some day's But we stay here more it is not that Bad and Thank you,

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Luis Osio Taxpan

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Edwin. I am 8 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 3 grade.

I started participating in SUN in march. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as sports, math and Art, and I have received support with

Mrs. Jorda and Mrs. Rodriguez. My favorite thing about SUN is Sports!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because it makes

me learn more

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Nathaniel. I am 9 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 3 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 1st grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as cooking, Step/Stamp and deso art, and I have received support with math and art.

My favorite thing about SUN is cooking!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because It helps me learn

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Ardina. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 3rd grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Teahwanda, cooking and crazy math, and I have received support with _____ and _____.

My favorite thing about SUN is Ms. Fabiola !

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because I spend lots of time with my friends and teachers. Also because I learn new things.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Sol Muel am 9 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 2015. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as basketball, computer and creative, and I have received support with public speaking and cooking connections. My favorite thing about SUN is learning!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because Meanwhile my mom and dad are not here so I can't be here.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Wilkes. I am 9 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 3 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 3. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as singing, sports and reading, and I have received support with and.

My favorite thing about SUN is activities!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because it helps me in my math and reading

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Breanna. I am 9 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 2 or 3 grad. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Crazy Math, taekwondo and comic book making and I have received support with

Math and teamwork.

My favorite thing about SUN is comic book making!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because It helps me with Math and difens.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Breanna

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Atxel. I am 9 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 3 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 3. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as gardening, step/stop and
crazy math and I have received support with

learn about and dancing.
stop and go
My favorite thing about SUN is it's fun!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because I know
how to dance

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Gladys. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 4 grad. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as COOKING, CRUZY MATH and _____, and I have received support with _____ and _____.

My favorite thing about SUN is MSDWIN!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because I have FUN and Play with my friend and do FUN things

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Gladys

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Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Jennifer A. Sauno - Cruz. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in Summer 2014. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Journalism, Gardening and Readers Theater, and I have received support with Reading and caring for the environment. My favorite thing about SUN is meeting new staff!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because sometimes my parents can not find someone to take care of me and my siblings.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Jennifer Abigail
Sauno-Cruz

My Name is Jessica. I am _____ years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

My favorite thing about SUN is the people!

campers. I'm not sure if you're at the street
or if you're in the back of the house. I'm so
A. I'm not sure if you're at the street or if you're in the back of the house. I'm so

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Kevin Tran. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 2013. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as Journalism, Stop and stomp and basketball, and I have received support with Mr. G and Mrs. Vanessa.

My favorite thing about SUN is that you get to go outside.

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because my family
wants me to go outside more instead of inside
my house.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Kevin Tran

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Lishahoud. I am 11 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 5th grade.

I started participating in SUN in beginning of 5th grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as basketball, creative drama and public speaking, and I have received support with basketball and writing.

My favorite thing about SUN is making new friends!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because it is such
time for me to learn. I get to play while
I learn. The teachers are fun. I don't
even realize I'm learning. It just feels like

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Kendra. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 2nd grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as crazy math, sports play 60 and cooking, and I have received support with learning how to cook and learning that math is fun.
My favorite thing about SUN is ^{more treats} the classes!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because It's fun
and I don't have to go home and watch
the T.V. and play with my cousins.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kendra

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Isabela. I am 20 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4 grade.

I started participating in SUN in 3rd. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as sports gym, basketball and ~~Art~~ Art, and I have received support with _____ and _____.

My favorite thing about SUN is the teachers !.

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because I have been learning new things.

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Isabela Serna Magaña

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Jimena. I am 10 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 4th grade.

I started participating in SUN in 3rd grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as AKA sciences, crazy math and baseball, and I have received support with _____ and _____.

My favorite thing about SUN is the teachers!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because I learn new stuff I didn't know!

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Jimena

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners:

My Name is Erica L. I am 9 years old. I attend Wilkes Elementary School and I am in 3rd grade.

I started participating in SUN in 3rd grade. Since then, I have participated in many awesome activities such as cooking, Readers theater and Art, and I have received support with friends and teachers.

My favorite thing about SUN is cooking!

I want you to know that SUN is important to me and my family because it is fun
that I get excited when I come

Thank you so much for the support you provide to El Programa Hispano to make SUN possible at Wilkes, and please continue to support the work of EPH in our Community Schools.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Erica L