

**Conexiones Latinas  
Cuatro Condados Unidos  
Jefferson-Walworth-Rock-Dodge**

***The mission of Conexiones Latinas is to inform and educate the Hispanic community of the services available in the counties of Dodge, Jefferson, Rock & Walworth.***

For those of you who don't read Spanish, but have an interest in what *Conexiones Latinas* is all about, we will be including a brief summary in English of the articles included in the newsletter. If your organization would like to submit an article or other information for publication in future editions of *Conexiones Latinas* feel free to do so. Information which is time specific should be submitted at the beginning of the quarter **PRIOR** to the quarter in which your event will take place. Publication dates for the year are January, April, July, and October. We want *Conexiones Latinas* to work for you, so let us hear about your organization, upcoming events and information of interest to our community.

Information should be written and ready for publication when it is submitted. If possible, submit the information in Spanish. If this is not possible, you may send it in English and it will be translated by a *Conexiones Latinas* volunteer. Submit information to:

Conexiones Latinas  
c/o Jodi Roberts  
520 Handeyside Lane, Suite 3  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538                      or fax to (920) 568-5023

**January/February/March 2019**

**Programa de Asistencia...Immigrant Outreach Program at YWCA**

The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA Rock County has been serving the Latino community through the "Immigrant Outreach Program" (IOP) Immigrants and their families are among the most exposed to abuse in our community. Domestic violence, human trafficking, discrimination and racism are some of the problems that affect the populations of local immigrants. One of the biggest challenges they face is access to resources in their language. The goal of the assistance program for immigration and domestic violence services is to build a just community where all people have access to the necessary resources. Our commitment is to serve, help and inform the community about recent changes in immigration laws and policies so that they know their legal rights and options for relief.

Some of our services are the following: - Assistance and support to victims of crime - Translation and interpretation of documents - Restraining orders - Connection to mental health programs - Connection to community empowerment programs - English and Citizenship classes - Access to the free legal clinic with expert lawyers in Immigration and Family Cases. - Assistance with forms for DACA and other forms of Immigration We offer services completely in Spanish. There are costs related to services For more information or to schedule an appointment contact: Ginna Isunza, Director of the Assistance Program for Immigration and Domestic Violence Services at 608.752.5445 Extension 215

**Descubre las Oportunidades... Parent's Cooperative Preschool**

Parents Cooperative Preschool (PCP) is a school for children between the ages 2-5 years. At PCP, children can explore, contract, experiment, and grow alongside their parents and teachers. Our purpose is to provide a creative learning experience based on play, with emphasis on the development of socialization and emotional awareness, cognitive growth and fine and gross motor skills. In addition to classes for 2 and 3 year olds, PCP also has 4K classes in the morning and afternoon with the Fort Atkinson school district. Registration begins in January 2019. For a tour or

more information, please contact the school: Parents Cooperative Preschool 320 So Main St Fort Atkinson, 920.563.7252 [parentscoop@att.net](mailto:parentscoop@att.net) [www.pcpf.org](http://www.pcpf.org) Spanish is spoken

### **Nuevos Comienzos...New Beginnings**

New Beginnings APFV opened an office in downtown Whitewater in October to serve survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse in Jefferson and Walworth counties.

Services include safety planning, legal and medical advocacy, individual counseling, a 24-hour hot line, assistance finding housing, and multiple support groups for children, teens and adults impacted by violence.

With its new Whitewater office at 143 W. Main St., the non-profit organization doubled in size. The agency had previously served Walworth County from an office in Elkhorn for 40 years. It was founded in 1978 as The Association for Prevention of Family Violence, or APFV for short. The current Elkhorn office, at 735 N. Wisconsin St., remains active and busy.

"There's something unsettling about this time of year," said Lloyd. "We all want to be merry and bright for the holidays, but it's cold outside, it gets dark early, money is often tight and stress goes up. The combination can turn ugly and serious quickly for families. We want to help them through it."

Fortunately, New Beginnings has programming for children as young as 5, teens, adults and senior citizens.

The board of directors changed the name to New Beginnings APFV a few months ago, partly to make the name easier to remember.

"The letters 'APFV' were always difficult for people to recall," said Heidi Lloyd, executive director.

"Now folks can find us simply by looking up New Beginnings. We also wanted to better reflect our mission of helping victims of violence become strong survivors. They are starting their individual journey toward healing."

From the second office, New Beginnings will serve the southern part of Jefferson County, including Fort Atkinson, Palmyra, Whitewater and UW-Whitewater.

"We've already been active in Whitewater city and on campus," said Lloyd. "New Beginnings will continue to offer the high quality services we have become known for in Walworth County, just with a broader geographical area and additional staff."

New Beginnings is proud that all of the services it provides in English, it also provides in Spanish. This includes counseling with a licensed professional counselor, accompanying a violence survivor to a court hearing or a law enforcement interview, advocacy at a local hospital for a sexual assault exam, help filing a restraining order or finding safe temporary housing, and identifying other community resources that can help meet individual or family needs.

Two of the three regular staff in the Whitewater office are native Spanish speakers, including Advocate Araceli Wence and Counselor Carmen Garces.

"Our services are always confidential and free—regardless of income, race, gender or gender identification, sexual orientation, citizenship or other factors," said Lloyd. "Confidentiality is a hallmark of what we do, not only because it's required by state law but also because it's important in the healing process."

Last year, New Beginnings helped 1,013 families impacted by violence.

"Although most of those were from Walworth County, we have never ended our services at the county line," said Lloyd. "We have always helped folks from other counties who called or came to our agency, as well as people who lived in Illinois."

"We won't draw a hard line in the sand for Jefferson County, either. Loosely you could say our service line includes the communities along and south of Highway 106, but we'll help anyone who asks."

Lloyd said it's a wonderful coincidence that the agency name changed to New Beginnings so closely to the expansion of services.

"We will keep the same hotline number that we have had for 40 years as our main contact, whether the call originates from Walworth or Jefferson county," she said. "You can reach anyone in either office at one number: 262-723-4653."

On Dec. 1, New Beginnings added Spanish to its web site. For more information, go to [www.newbeginningswalworth.com](http://www.newbeginningswalworth.com). The agency has plans to open a domestic violence shelter in the year 2020.

### **Grupo de Libros...Books and Breakfast**

The Rock County WIC Program is pleased to announce that we have partnered with the Early Literacy Program of the Beloit School District to provide a literacy play group for WIC families! During the play group, children read a story and families receive nutrition education about the use of WIC foods. This is a fun opportunity for families to connect with each other, develop the linguistic skills of their children and enjoy creative recipes using WIC foods. All children who attend receive a snack and a book to take home at no cost. The play group is Fridays from 10 am to 11am. The play group will be held on the dates listed. To register for this fantastic event, call the WIC office in Beloit at (608) 362-1566 today!

#### **Sus Opiniones Valen... Your voice matters**

The Gathering Source in Reeseville, the United Way of Dodge County and other community service organizations are working together to build stronger, thriving communities in Dodge County. So that we work on the things that matter most, we need to hear what matters most to you. Please help us by sharing your opinions in a brief on-line survey that covers important issues faced by Dodge County residents such as healthcare, childcare, jobs, public transportation, food security, and more.

To take the survey, visit [www.dodgesurvey.com](http://www.dodgesurvey.com). It will take you less than 10 minutes. Your response is completely anonymous unless you optionally choose to tell us who you are.

#### **Conozca sus derechos... Know your rights**

This infographic from the ACLU gives information about what to do if ICE enters your workplace or stops you in the street. The website for more information is listed in the lower left hand corner.

#### **Despensas de Comida... Food Pantries in the area**

Local food pantry information is listed.

#### **Relaciones Sanas**

Communication is a key part of developing a healthy relationship. The first step is to make sure that both parties want and expect the same things. Being on the same page is very important. The following tips can help you create and maintain a healthy relationship:

- Do not stay silent. In a healthy relationship, if something bothers you, it's best to talk about it instead of keeping it inside.
- Respect your partner. The wishes and feelings of your partner have value. Let him/her know you're making an effort to take their ideas into consideration. Mutual respect is essential to maintain healthy relationships.
- Yield. Disagreements are a natural part of healthy relationships, but it's important to find a way to compromise if there is disagreement. Try to resolve conflicts in a fair and rational way.
- Give support. Offer comfort and encourage your partner. Also, let him/her know when you need their support. In healthy relationships the two people try to give each other encouragement, not knock each other down.
- The privacy of each party must be respected. Because you are in a relationship does not mean that you have to share everything and be constantly together. Healthy relationships need space. For more information call 866-331-9474 or visit [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

#### **Free English Classes**

JCLC offers free English classes beginning January 14 through May 23. Location, dates and times are listed. Call 920-675-0500 or visit [www.jclc.us](http://www.jclc.us) for more information.

#### **HablarLeerJugar... Introducing the TalkReadPlay with your child every day Campaign**

Children are born ready to learn. In the first years of life, the brain makes one million new neural connections every single second. By age five, 90 percent of a child's brain has already developed. When parents talk, read and play with their babies, they have an enormous impact on the child's brain development, social skills, vocabulary growth and future academic success.

TalkReadPlay is designed to help parents learn the science behind brain development, a process referred to as "brain building", and empower them to create more brain-building opportunities with their babies and young children.

Parents: You Already Have What it Takes

\* It doesn't matter what your own background or education is, you already have what it takes to build your child's brain-just talk more!

\* It won't take extra time to add in some brain building into everyday routines with your kids. Talk more with your children and ask them questions . . .

- o At mealtimes - talk about what they're eating or talk through the steps while you prepare their meal.
- o At bath time - talk about the different colors or shapes of bath toys or bubbles.
- o On a walk - talk about the shapes of the trees or buildings.

\* Make your child's mind stretch. Even if you think they're too young to understand, their minds are building a foundation for learning everything from math to communication to reading.

\* This isn't just about learning to talk-you're actually building the connections in their brain that will help them learn languages and think later on.

\* Don't do all the talking! Listen, acknowledge, and respond to your child's words and actions. Think of it like a game of tennis-you serve, your child returns, and the conversation bounces back and forth.

For brain building tips and activities, visit [hablarleerjugar.com](http://hablarleerjugar.com), download the free Daily Vroom app and start brain building today!

### **Las Vacunas Salvan Vidas!... Vaccines Save Lives**

The goal of Public Health is to prevent disease. It is much easier and cheaper to prevent disease. That is exactly what vaccines are intended to do. Vaccines protect us from serious diseases and also prevent the spread of these diseases to others people. Help protect yourself and your family! Each dose of a vaccine is important for better protection against infectious diseases that are threats today and can be especially serious for babies and very small children. Help your child maintain immunity against potentially harmful diseases by keeping up with the recommended vaccine schedule. Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. at 6:00 p.m. Contact the Walworth County Public Health Department at 262-741-3140 to make an appointment. Or call the other county Public Health Departments

Dodge County Public Health Department 920-386-3670  
Jefferson County Public Health Department 920-674-7275  
Rock County Public Health Department 608-757-5440