

MANO EN MANO/HAND IN HAND

Our mission is to build a strong community in Downeast Maine by working with diverse populations to provide affordable housing and educational opportunities, remove barriers to health and social services, and to advocate for social justice.

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Mano en Mano Wins Prize During Milbridge Days Parade

July 25th was a big day for volunteers at Mano en Mano. Their many hours of preparing Mano en Mano's entry in the Milbridge Days parade paid off. More than forty participants joined together to walk with in the parade, and judges awarded Mano en Mano an exciting second place prize of movie tickets.

Mano en Mano's outreach worker, Edith Flores, said she decided to enter Mano

en Mano for the first time because our organization has been in Milbridge more than eight years. "It was great for the Latino Community to participate in a town event as part of the town's celebration," she said, "and representing Mano en Mano."

Edith got support from Latino families and Mano en Mano's Board. She made home visits and phone calls with help from Board member Beth Russet, getting everyone excited. Working with parents and kids alike, Edith and volunteers spent about three days preparing for the parade's theme, "Let's Clown Around."

Participants dressed in traditional Mexican costumes, and all the kids lent a

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Women dancing in traditional Mexican attire during the Milbridge Days Parade



Truck decorated as a clown's face for the parade



Beth Russet and Chano Herrera carry Mano en Mano's sign for Milbridge Days Parade

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Meet our New Outreach Worker

We are pleased to introduce Edith Flores, our new outreach worker at Mano en Mano. Edith is from San Luis Potosi, Mexico and moved to Florida as a girl. She has lived in Milbridge for ten years and is married with two small sons. The daughter of a migrant worker family, Edith traveled with her family much of the year to different states for seasonal farm work before she finished school and settled in Milbridge.

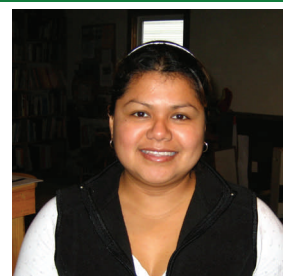
Before becoming the outreach worker, Edith volunteered often at MeM, helping teach Spanish classes, interpreting, and assisting with our annual Mother's Day events. Edith commented that she has helped out before, but now it is a bigger responsibility.

"I feel very pleased that I have support from an organization like Mano en Mano," Edith said. "It makes me feel stronger to go out and help other people." Edith commented that the staff at Mano

en Mano know what is going on in the area with migrant workers, and it makes a fun, strong, united team.

Edith likes meeting people and having access to information so that she can answer clients' questions when they come in the door. "It's a good feeling," she says, "that this kind of organization exists."

Since starting work in July, Edith has been busy connecting with the Latino community, interpreting and translating, creating a new brochure, helping with social services applications, and more. She is an incredible asset to our staff.



Edith Flores, Outreach Worker



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Arden Hendrie

Language Teacher

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Message from our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

It was with both joy and sadness that I announced my departure as Executive Director at the March Board meeting. It has been with great pleasure that I have shared the past five years with the board members, staff, AmeriCorps members, volunteers and my many colleagues throughout Maine that have supported and cheered us on.

My fond memories will be many: the Mother's Day Celebrations, the students working and playing in the afterschool program, and the many struggles and triumphs that we have faced together to build a strong and diverse community Downeast.

The hiring committee is currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the job. With much planning and a month of overlap time, we are striving for a smooth transition. Your feedback and assistance are greatly appreciated during this time of opportunity and transition for Mano en Mano.

Both Washington County and Mano en Mano face many challenges for the future. I can only hope that the groundwork we laid down will continue to give strength and build bridges for individuals and families to thrive in their community. I wish my successor the best and thank each of you for your continued support of Mano en Mano.

Peace and solidarity,
Anais Tomezsko

Milbridge Days (Continued)

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hand decorating Mano en Mano's sign. In keeping with the theme, Edith decorated the truck like a clown face, giving it balloons for hair, cardboard eyes, and a large red smile. A mixed group walked in the parade from Wyman Road through Milbridge, several wearing costumes, to the tune of traditional Mexican *mariachi* music playing from the truck.

Executive Director Anais Tomezsko was glad Mano en Mano participated in the Milbridge Days Parade. "It's great to see such a diverse group of people walking in the parade this year," she commented. Edith felt that after so much work the parade went by too fast, but she was pleased with the outcome. "I'm so thankful for all the parents and kids that supported us, were patient and participated in such a wonderful event," she said, "even though it was our first time in the parade!"



Edith Flores, wearing a *sombrero charro*



Local girls participate with Mano en Mano

New Language Teacher Profile



We would like to introduce you to Arden Hendrie, our new language teacher. Arden received his Bachelor of Arts in English from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, and a Master's degree in fiction writing from the University of Montana in Missoula.

After teaching the summer session of Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, he is partnering with returning language teacher Maria Griggs to teach the fall ESL classes.

Arden has a diverse teaching background, having taught English in locales such as Turkey, Mexico, and Thailand. He also has experience teaching art, creative writing, and literature, and editing for a variety of publications. Arden especially enjoys surfing and painting in his spare time.

We are very happy to add him to our team at Mano en Mano!

Catching up with Olivia Perez

We took a few moments to catch up with Olivia Perez, one of the Dollars for Scholars Recipients. While exams and a full class load have kept her very busy at the University of Maine in Orono, Olivia generously took the time to update us on her experiences:

MeM: What has your experience in college been like so far?

It is my third year in the nursing program, and my experience as a student at the University of Maine has enriched me much as a person. I've had the opportunity to meet many people from other places and to learn their different points of view. Although my classes are very demanding and require lots of dedication, I enjoy being able to study what interests me the most and to learn something new each day.

MeM: What made you interested in your program, and what are classes like?

I would like study nursing to be a nurse practitioner in the future. The program is very hard and especially this year. The classes are very difficult and it is more complicated for my because English is my second language. Because of that I need to be more dedicated in order to be successful. My professors are very nice and they help me a lot. Also the university has a lot of resources to help the students with their classes. The most challenging part is the language. Taking notes and following the class is very challenging.

MeM: What are your goals once you finish your program?

My goals are to finish college and start to work in the hospital, participate in programs where I can help many people and contribute to improve my community with my knowledge.

ESL Classes Continue to be a Success

Mano en Mano held Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes during the summer, serving intermediate students twice a week. Arden Hendrie led the summer session with the help of volunteer Deborah Krichels.

Fall ESL classes started September 22nd. Maria Griggs returned to teach English classes with summer instructor Arden. The first classes have been a success and have once again demonstrated the interest in the Latino community to learn English. Many of the adults in the ESL classes are returning students from the summer and last year's ESL sessions. We anticipate another great year for teachers and students alike.

Meet our New Americorps Member

Mano en Mano would like to welcome Bethany Woods, our new Americorps member. A native Virginian, she made the move to Maine at the end of August, having just graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Bethany will be helping out with administrative tasks, assisting with Mano en Mano's programming, managing volunteers, and helping Edith with family outreach. Bethany said that she's excited to be working for Mano en Mano, and looks forward to tackling the outdoor adventures Maine has to offer.

Mother's Day Event

The 3rd Annual Mother's Day Event was a big success and lots of fun. Youth from diverse cultural backgrounds presented music and dances in honor of their mothers. Plenty of food was shared, and the event raised money for Mano en Mano Dollars for Scholars.

Harvest Supper

Later this fall, Mano en Mano will be hosting a Harvest Chili Supper Fundraiser in collaboration with the Millbridge Congregational Church. Stay tuned for the date!

Keep Me Warm

Mano en Mano will be working with volunteers from the University of Maine's Cooperative Extension to distribute home weathering materials to some Latino families in November. These materials will help cut energy costs for families by sealing drafty doors and windows.

Thank You!

A special thanks to all our contributors. We deeply appreciate your continued support. Hand in Hand we are building a stronger community.

Paperless News!

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter electronically, please contact us at info@manoenmanocenter.org.



Bethany Woods, New Americorps Member

What is Mano en Mano?

Mano en Mano is a community based non-profit organization located in Milbridge, Maine. Our mission is “to build a strong community in Downeast Maine by working with diverse populations to provide affordable housing and educational opportunities, remove barriers to health and social services and to advocate for social justice.”

Programs we offer to meet our mission include Educational Workshops, Spanish courses for local community members and area businesses, English as a Second Language classes for Adults, Community Collaborations, and we are in the process of developing the first ever off-farm affordable farm labor housing in Maine.

We serve as a resource center, helping people find and connect with social services, health care, health insurance, jobs and housing.

We also do a limited amount of translation and interpretation. All our programs are offered in Spanish and English and are delivered in a culturally sensitive manner.

¿Que está pasando a Mano en Mano?

- Adult English as a Second Language Classes are ongoing now. If you are interested please contact MEM.
- We are moving forward with the development of the first ever off-farm farm labor housing in Maine.
- Mano en Mano is printing *Latinos Unidos*, a booklet that lists social services, educational, health, and other resources in English and Spanish for the Latino community. Stay tuned for its arrival!
- Mano en Mano is always looking for dedicated community volunteers. If you would like to offer a workshop to the youth or if you would like to work with our staff on organizational projects, please email us at: volunteer@manoenmanocenter.org

