

# 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference



**"ABRIENDO PUERTAS, OPENING DOORS"**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

*Stories of Hope*



# Feeling Overwhelmed

Talk to someone about your thoughts and feelings



Call 988 now if you need help with any of the following:

- Thoughts of suicide
- Drinking too much
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**Mental Health,  
Addiction & Recovery  
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Lorain County**

HELPING FAMILIES IN CRISIS

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline offers access to trained professionals who can help people experience a mental health or substance use crisis.

**27th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference**  
*Stories of Hope • Historias de Esperanza*



**Bienvenidos,**

Welcome to the 27th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference. Today, we gather not just as attendees, but as living proof that hope endures. Every person in this room carries a Historia de Esperanza, a story of perseverance, courage, and community. This conference exists to honor those stories and to write the next chapter together.

Guided by CHIP's mission, we bring together leaders across education, health, law, public service, and youth development. Special thanks to our Co-Directors Carmen Leibas and Alisha Pardon, whose vision and dedication have made this day possible, and to every sponsor, volunteer, and presenter who believes in the power of our community.

Today's sessions reflect the full richness of our stories and the depth of our hope. We are honored to welcome our keynote speaker, Ovi Vásquez, a man whose life is itself un Historia de Esperanza. Raised as a child farmworker in rural Guatemala, he came to the United States alone as a teenager, graduated high school in three years while working overnight shifts, and went on to build a career at Apple, Tesla, Salesforce, and Uber. As a national leadership speaker and bestselling author, Ovi has spent a decade helping leaders transform adversity into advantage. His message could not be more perfectly aligned with ours: our stories, however hard, hold the seeds of something extraordinary.

Dr. Vincent Granito opens our eyes to the promise and responsibility of artificial intelligence. Rebecca Jones equips us to recognize crisis signs that can help us better support our community. Marie Contreras Deshuk invites us to find strength and stillness through yoga. Judith Padua sounds an urgent and loving call for culturally connected foster homes right here in Lorain County. Captain Jacob Morris arms us with the knowledge to protect what we've worked so hard to build.

Jorge Hernandez brings us home through food, honoring the flavors and traditions passed down through generations. Tula Ramos lights a path forward for our youth through career and education opportunities. Ana Badillo helps aspiring entrepreneurs take their first confident steps toward launching a business. Jessica Sutton reminds us that Latino voices belong in the halls of state government, and shows us exactly how to get there.

For our youth, this day holds something especially powerful. Donat de la Cruz creates a healing space in *Lágrimas de Miel*, where pain finds language and language becomes light. Gabriel Gutierrez and Ana Badillo share their own entrepreneurial journey in Click to Cart, proving that young people's ideas, creativity, and dreams are more than enough to build something real.

To our youth: you are not just the future, you are the hope of right now. You are always welcome here. To everyone in this room: your presence is itself an act of hope.

Our beloved mentor Frank Jacinto reminded us: **"We can do all things if no one worries about who gets the credit."** May that spirit of humble, united purpose carry us forward, together writing stories of hope that will inspire generations to come.

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*Con esperanza y gratitud,*  
**Juanita Senquiz**

**President, CHIP**  
Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress

# 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference Sponsors

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**State Representative Joe Miller**

**UAW CAP Council**

**Voices for Children**

***Partner: Ohio Latino Affairs Commission***

# 27<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Leadership Conference Agenda

- 8 – 9 a.m.      **Registration, Breakfast, Medical Corner, Visit Vendor Tables and Lorain Sports Hall of Fame**
- 9:00 a.m.      **Posting of Colors by JROTC, Lorain High School**  
directed by **Staff Sgt. Edward Catanese** and **MAJ (R) Dennis P. Marshall**  
**National Anthem**  
**Invocation by Fr. Alex Spenik, Sacred Heart Chapel**  
**Opening Remarks: Juanita Senquiz, President, Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress**  
**Carmen Leibas & Alisha Pardon, Conference Directors**
- 9:15 a.m.      **Lorain County Sheriff Jack Hall- Immigration update in Lorain County**
- 9:30 a.m.      **Josh Evans “Loaded Silence”**
- 9:40 a.m.      **Dr. Vince Granito - Professor, LCCC**  
**AI: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly**
- 10:10 a.m.      **Ovi Vasquez- National Leadership Keynote Speaker, Author, Social Entrepreneur**  
**Returning Hope, Reinvigorating Futures**
- 10:45 a.m.      **Donat de la Cruz**
- 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.      **Lunch, medical corner, visit vendors, networking, Lorain Sports Hall of Fame**
- 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.      **Select One Workshop to Attend from List Below**  
**Children Can’t Wait: The Growing Crisis in Foster Care**  
**Spotting Signs and Saving Lives**  
**Start Smart: Your Step by Step Checklist for Launching a Business**  
**Yoga**  
**Lágrimas de Miel (Tears of Honey)- Youth**
- 2:10 – 3:15 p.m.      **Select One Workshop to Attend from List Below**  
**AI in Action: Opportunities, Risks, and Responsible Use**  
**Cooking with Jorge**  
**Edging Towards Success: Guiding Your Child’s Career and Educational Goals**  
**Latinos Have Power! Understanding and Influencing State Policy**  
**Protecting Yourself from Scams**  
**Click to Cart: Our Journey in E-Commerce - Youth**
- 3:20 p.m. – **Evaluations & Door Prizes**

## C.H.I.P Conference Committee



On behalf of the organizing team which includes: events, operations, funding, door prizes, registration, and hospitality, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each member of the Hispanic Leadership Conference Committee for your dedication and tireless efforts in planning the 27th annual conference.

Your countless hours of hard work, thoughtful collaboration, and unwavering commitment were instrumental in making this event a success. The energy, passion, and unity you brought to every step of the process truly reflect the spirit of leadership and community we strive to celebrate. Thank you for going above and beyond to create a meaningful and inspiring experience for all involved. Thank you!

**THANK YOU!**

# Thank You

to the following for your generous donation

Sheriff Jack Hall-Lorain County Sheriff's Office  
Chief Deputy Tanya Czak -Lorain County Sheriff's Office  
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Dina Hernandez

## WORKSHOPS

### **AI in Action: Opportunities, Risks, and Responsible Use**

Presented by Dr. Vincent J. Granito Jr.

Building on the keynote session, this interactive workshop explores how artificial intelligence can be used in practical, meaningful ways across education, business, and community leadership. Along the way, we'll unpack common misconceptions, examine real limitations, and discuss how to avoid pitfalls like misinformation and bias. Participants will experiment with real-world applications while also examining the limitations, ethical concerns, and potential risks of AI. The session emphasizes responsible, informed use—helping attendees move from curiosity to confident, critical engagement.

### **Be the One: Spotting Signs and Saving Lives**

Presented by Rebecca Jones

This interactive workshop equips adolescents with the knowledge and skills to recognize the warning signs of suicide and respond with care and confidence. Participants will learn how to identify changes in behavior, mood, and communication that may indicate someone is struggling, while also exploring common risk factors and protective supports. Through guided discussion and age-appropriate activities, youth will practice how to check in with a friend, listen without judgment, and connect them to trusted adults or resources. The workshop emphasizes that help is always available, reduces stigma around mental health, and empowers young people to look out for themselves and one another.

### **Yoga**

Presented by Marie Contreras Deshuk

Improve your muscle tone and strength while sitting, stretching and flexing. Learn proper techniques that you can practice while sitting with the ability of adapting the poses to your own individual needs and abilities. Discover the positive impact chair yoga can have on your balance, mobility and overall fitness.

### **Children Can't Wait: The Growing Crisis in Foster Care**

Presented by Judith Padua, MSW, LISW

Across Lorain County, children enter foster care every day—often separated not only from their families, but also from their culture, language, and sense of belonging. In 2025, 5,451 reports of suspected abuse or neglect were made, with 1,801 investigations and 368 children placed in foster or kinship care. When local foster homes are unavailable, children are placed outside their community, losing critical connections during an already difficult time. The need for safe, culturally connected homes is urgent, and Latino families play a vital role in helping children remain connected to who they are.

This workshop will explore the growing need for foster families, the importance of culturally responsive caregiving, and how community members can take meaningful action. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the foster care system and leave with practical ways to support children and families—because when a child needs a home, they cannot wait.

### **Click to Cart: Our Journey in E-Commerce - YOUTH**

Presented by Gabriel Gutierrez & Ana R. Badillo

Ever wondered if your ideas, creativity, or passions could actually matter beyond your phone screen? This session is your wake-up call. We'll share the full scoop on launching our own online marketplace—what rocked, what shocked us, and the tweaks we'd make next time. No fluff, just honest highs and surprises from real life. You'll leave buzzing with fresh perspective, practical wisdom, and the guts to turn your marketplace dreams into action.

### **Cooking with Jorge**

Presented by Jorge Hernandez

A demonstration of making authentic Tomatillo Pico De Gallo, which is a red and green salsa utilizing a Molcajete (a traditional Mexican mortar and pestle made from volcanic stone.). Molcajete historically was used by Aztecs and Mayans for grinding spices, corn and herbs which retains heat and enhances flavors through its porous, yet rough surface. This demonstration is a technique used in Mexico.

### **Edging Towards Success: Guiding Your Child's Career and Educational Goals**

Presented by Tula Ramos

Learn about employment for youth and young adults ages 15 – 24 in Lorain County. There are opportunities for tutoring, classes, mentoring and work experience. This workshop will explain the criteria to qualify and the necessary steps to begin the application process.

### **Lágrimas de Miel (Tears of Honey) - YOUTH**

Presented Donat de la Cruz, Assisted by Josh Evans

A transformative, trauma-informed space designed to help participants gently identify and name the pain that has gone unspoken or unrecognized. Through guided reflection, we create conditions where the body can begin to feel safety—not as something earned, but as something remembered. This process invites participants to reconnect with parts of themselves shaped in environments where belonging, care, or stability were uncertain, and to move toward stillness, grounding, and self-trust.

- **Generative Process** – Using literary tools, poetry, and the intimacy of letter-writing, participants engage in a healing practice of expression and witnessing. Language becomes a way to illuminate what has been hidden, allowing “unnamed pain” to be held, understood, and transformed. Each piece created serves as a kind of internal lighthouse—guiding us back to ourselves, reframing what was once heavy or bitter into something that can be carried with meaning, softness, or even joy.

### **Latinos Have Power! Understanding and Influencing State Policy**

Presented by Jessica Sutton

Your voice has power — and now is the moment to use it with confidence. Join the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission for an informative and energizing presentation designed to equip community members with the knowledge and tools needed to participate effectively in state government. This session will break down the legislative process, guide you in building meaningful connections with your state representatives, and help you stay informed on the policy issues that shape your daily life. Whether you're just beginning your advocacy journey or looking to deepen

your civic engagement skills, this training offers practical insights to ensure your voice is heard

### **Protecting Yourself from Scams**

Presented by Captain Jacob Morris

Learn how to avoid scams to lower your risks of criminals stealing your money while protecting your identification. Learn common schemes used today that make it so easy to be conned. Become familiar with typical ways individuals can be scammed, stop fraud and safeguard your assets. Learn how to report losses or suspected fraud. Learn how to trust your instincts and be aware of unsolicited communications so you don't become the next victim.

### **Start Smart: Your Step by Step Checklist for Launching a Business**

Presented by Ana R. Badillo

Starting a business can feel like standing on the edge of possibility - ecstasy, but intimidating. This session is ideal for adults who are ready to take the first step toward entrepreneurship but need practical direction and confidence to begin. It will help you move from ideas to action with confidence. Participants will leave with an action checklist, recommended resources, and a clearer roadmap for launching their own business.

## Presenters



**Ana R. Badillo** earned her MBA in Entrepreneurial and International Business before entrepreneurship became widely recognized, reflecting her early passion for innovation, strategy, and a global perspective. Over the years, she has designed and developed programs for diverse audiences, from academically gifted students as young as 12 to first-generation high school students preparing for college, as well as parenting classes and business development initiatives ranging from ideation to growth. She also spent a year in Spain teaching English to employees of American companies, an experience that broadened her international outlook and strengthened her ability to connect with

people from a wide range of backgrounds. Presently she is a consultant for Lorain's Small Business Development Center. Throughout her career, Ana's greatest strength has been empowering others to succeed. Whether as a child advocate, professor at LCCC, advisor, or business leader, she is known for being professional, direct, process-oriented, and deeply committed to helping others become their best selves.



**Marie Contreras Deshuk** is a certified 200-hour yoga teacher and Level II Pilates Reformer, and Reiki II Practitioner. with a deep passion for holistic wellness. Blending mindful movement, breathwork, and energy healing, Marie creates a nurturing space for students to cultivate balance, strength, and inner peace. With a focus on Vinyasa yoga and Reiki's gentle healing energy, Marie aims to support physical, mental and energetic well-being, guiding others on their journey to self-discovery and transformation. She is also a Principal at Lorain City Schools where she has been employed for over 25 years. She is a graduate

of The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University and holds a M.Ed. In Curriculum and Instruction from Ashland University. Currently teaching yoga at Doc Watson's Studio and Reformer classes at Align Studio in Amherst.



**Dr. Vince Granito** is a psychology professor at Lorain County Community College and is serving as a Faculty Fellow in AI through LCCC's Teaching and Learning Center. Additionally, he is co-chair of the campus-wide AI task force. He has co-led Faculty Learning Communities on AI use in Higher Education and has a long history of incorporating innovative technology in education. Currently he is writing a chapter for a new book from the American Psychological Association on how AI can be used in psychology classes. He has been awarded numerous grants for innovations in teaching and was awarded the Wayne Weiten

Teaching Excellence Award from the American Psychological Association, (top two-year college psychology professor in the country). He was recognized with the 2022 League for Innovation in the Community College Excellence Award and was past president of the Ohio

Association of Two-Year Colleges, and the Society of Sport, Exercise, and Performance Psychology.



**Jack Hall** was elected as the 37th Lorain County Sheriff – an office that was founded in 1824. He is a lifelong resident of Lorain County, currently residing in Columbia Station. He began his career over 34 years ago with the Sheffield Village Police Department, served the residents of Avon Lake as a patrol officer and detective sergeant and was appointed to the Lorain County Sheriff’s Drug and Anti-Terrorism Task Force. Sheriff Hall formerly worked as the Captain of Special Operations for the Cleveland Metroparks Police Department, Chief of the Westfield OFIC Police Department in Medina County and also as a deputy sheriff with the Medina County

Sheriff’s Office. He takes great pride in the law enforcement teams that he has been a part and the teams he has been able to build. He believes in building a great team at the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office comprised of professional men and women who join the rank of the many who have had the tradition and honor of serving the citizens.



**Jorge Hernandez, Chef and Owner of Flying Pig Mexican Cuisine by Jorge Hernandez**

Jorge Hernandez grew up in Mexico City with a profound love for his culture and traditional Mexican cuisine. Over the past five years, he has passionately dedicated himself to collecting cherished family recipes and mastering time-honored dishes, with the purpose of sharing the authentic flavors and heartfelt stories that shaped him with others. Driven by a dream to create something truly special, Jorge combined his passion for genuine Mexican food with a strong commitment to delivering exceptional

customer experiences, which led to the establishment of Flying Pig Mexican Cuisine by Jorge Hernandez. His vision extends beyond serving meals—he aims to create memorable moments rooted in heritage, community, and the warmth of homemade flavors. Jorge takes great pride in bringing an authentic taste of Mexico to every guest, sharing his heritage one thoughtfully crafted dish at a time.



**Rebecca Jones** is a lifelong resident of Lorain and serves as the Child and Adolescent Services Director for the MHARS Board in Lorain County. She is a Licensed Professional in Clinical Counselor-Supervision with a Master of Education in Community Agency Counseling. She has worked in community mental health for over 20 years, with extensive experience in providing clinical oversight of behavioral health services to diverse populations. She is known for developing and implementing best-practice clinical programming to meet the needs of the community. She has been

the Chair of the Lorain County Suicide Prevention Coalition since 2020. Ms. Jones has an extensive history of providing trauma-informed counseling with individuals, groups and

families in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Rebecca is passionate about facilitating opportunities for healing.



**Jacob “Jake” Morris** is a Police Captain with the Lorain Police Department, where he has served since being hired in 2004. Over the course of his career, he has held a variety of assignments and leadership roles, gaining extensive experience in law enforcement operations, supervision, investigations, and community engagement. In addition to his law enforcement career, Captain Morris is a proud combat veteran of the Ohio Army National Guard, where he developed a strong foundation in discipline, leadership, and public service. Captain Morris earned his Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Bowling Green State University in 2017. He now serves as an adjunct instructor at BGSU, where he is committed to bridging real-world law enforcement experience with academic instruction, helping to prepare the next generation of criminal justice professionals.



**Judith Padua** is a bilingual (English/Spanish) Licensed Independent Social Worker and Foster Care Recruitment Coordinator with Lorain County Children Services. With over 25 years of experience in child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health, she is dedicated to strengthening families and improving outcomes for children. She leads community efforts to recruit, educate, and support foster families, guiding caregivers through the licensing process with a strong focus on culturally responsive care. Judith holds a Master of Social Work from Cleveland State University, where she was named MSW Student of the Year, and is a graduate of Leadership Lorain County and LeadDiversity. She is passionate about mobilizing communities to ensure every child has a safe, stable, and loving home.



**Jessica Sutton** serves as OCHLA's Public Policy Officer. Jessica is experienced in policy analysis and Ohio's legislative process. She earned her degree from Ohio State's John Glenn College of Public Affairs and was later accepted into the Legislative Service Commission Fellowship Program and placed in LSC's Office of Research and Drafting. Over two years at LSC, Jessica drafted legislation, wrote bill analyses, staffed legislative committees, and completed legislative research in a nonpartisan capacity for all members of Ohio's General Assembly. Jessica also has experience serving Ohio's Latino communities. Prior to her time at LSC, Jessica was the program manager of OCHLA's Latino Mental Health Navigator Program. She served in this role for two years, providing administrative and technical support to seven grantee organizations and promoting their work to OCHLA's partners throughout the state. While in this part-time position with OCHLA, Jessica also spent six months working in Madrid, Spain as a high school English Language Assistant.



**Tula Ramos** graduated from Clearview High School, pursued higher education with a strong focus on criminal justice and is a lifelong resident of Lorain. She earned an associate's degree in Police Science from Lorain County Community College and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Youngstown State University. With over 30 years of experience serving youth, Tula Ramos has dedicated her career to supporting and empowering young people through organizations such as El Centro De Servicios Sociales Inc., Lorain County Urban League, Lorain County Detention Home, and OhioMeansJobs - Lorain County. Currently, she serves as the Youth Program Manager for Youth Edge (CCMEP), where she continues to champion programs that guide, mentor, and uplift the youth community. Tula is deeply passionate about making a lasting impact on the lives of young people and fostering opportunities for their growth and success.



**Ovi Vásquez** is a National Leadership Keynote Speaker who went from a farmboy raised in a poor village in the sugarcane fields of Central America to being accepted to Harvard Business School Online. He learned to speak English at 17 years old. Ovi has worked for global corporations like; Apple, Tesla, Salesforce, and Uber. As an entrepreneur, he has self-published six books—including a #1 Best-seller on Amazon™. He is a TEDx speaker on Self-Leadership and has been a recurrent On-air collaborator for Univision—leading him to become one of the most sought-after bilingual youth leadership speakers of our time. As a trailblazer, he is on a philanthropic quest to build the first-ever computer school in his native village in rural Guatemala to open new doors of opportunities for young people.



## Youth Component



**Donat de la Cruz** Donat De La Cruz is a Dominican-born poet, educator, and community organizer raised in Upper Manhattan, shaped by the cultures of Washington Heights and Harlem. A product of the Dominican diaspora and the New York City concrete jungle, his work explores identity, faith, ancestral memory, displacement, and the resilience of marginalized communities. He is a graduate of SUNY Geneseo, where he served on the President's Commission for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and worked as a Teaching Assistant for the Office of Cultural Affairs. He coached the Geneseo Poets Society National Slam Team and was

recognized as a community activist in The Livingston Lamron. Donat is the recipient of multiple Cultural Affairs Poetry and Writers Grants, winner of the Brooklyn Poetry Slam and the Poetic Affairs Slam. He opened for bestselling poet Rupi Kaur during the 10th anniversary tour of her internationally acclaimed collection *Milk and Honey*. He performed at the Apollo Theater, competed in the Final Friday Slam at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, and appeared as a feature poet on Off-Broadway stages throughout New York City and beyond with performances/workshops at universities/institutions. Donat taught healing-centered writing workshops with organizations like NYDIS Health and Equity Services, ID Studios in the Bronx, the Langston Hughes House, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. Founder of One Love One Mic, a Harlem-based open mic dedicated to emerging artists and community voices. Instagram: @onelovehustle.



**Josh Evans** is a 2024 Lorain High School graduate and is presently studying Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. He is also a passionate poet who uses his voice to explore identity, struggle, and real life experiences through powerful, honest storytelling.

## Youth Component



**Gabriel Gutierrez & Ana Badillo** combined their business savvy, IT and project management skills to launch [GANARSHOP.com](http://GANARSHOP.com) — an e-commerce marketplace that turned into a steady side hustle funding our adrenaline-packed hobby of road racing. As costs piled up fast—from high-performance tires to race entry fees and track time—we knew we needed a smarter, sustainable way to keep the passion alive without draining our savings or breaking the bank. Starting small from our home we focused on quality products, honest descriptions, constant communication with

customers, and lightning-fast shipping to build confidence right out of the gate. Our reviews were positive and the word started to spread. [GANARSHOP.com](http://GANARSHOP.com) quickly developed a reputation for trust and reliability. In just over 9 months, our earning is **over \$350K in sales** with more than **3,000 items sold**; nearly **2,000 review ratings with 100% positive feedback** and a growing community of **220 followers**. What began as a few sales a week snowballed into a thriving customer base, covering our hobby expenses. Today, [GANARSHOP.com](http://GANARSHOP.com) connects enthusiasts worldwide with affordable everyday products—proving that blending your strengths with a simple online hustle can fuel your dreams and create real momentum.



**GS**  
**GANARSHOP.com**

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DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF VALUES-DRIVEN LEADERS, GLOBALLY.

OVI VÁSQUEZ



## Lorain City Schools JROTC



Thank you to the LHS Titan Battalion Color Guard for the posting of the colors!



# PROCLAMATION OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, April 25, 2026, the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress (CHIP) will host the 27th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference at Lorain County Community College; and

**WHEREAS**, the first conference was held in April 1996 and was conducted by the Hispanic Councils of UAW Local 425 and Local 2000 from the Lorain and Avon Ford plants consisting of front-line Hispanic/Latino workers who sought to rejuvenate and inspire non-profit front-line workers tirelessly making a difference in the lives of others; and

**WHEREAS**, the UAW Hispanic Council hosted the first ten Hispanic Leadership Conferences from 1996 through 2005 passing the torch to the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress (CHIP), when most Council members transferred to Kentucky; and

**WHEREAS**, CHIP has hosted this important Hispanic Leadership Event ever since, under past President's Joel Arredondo and Tim Carrion and current President Juanita Senquiz (2018-present). The current Conference Directors (2016-present) are Carmen Leibas and Alisha Pardon. Prior to that, Mike and Dina Ferrer were conference directors for 20 years (1996-2015); and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of CHIP is to promote self-sufficiency, cooperation, and unity within the Hispanic/Latino community; to promote greater community participation; to ensure access to available resources; and to increase involvement in the decision-making process, thereby improving the overall quality of life for the Hispanic/Latino community; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHIP conference is hosted in collaboration with 60+ Hispanic/Hispanic serving organizations providing volunteers, resources, conference subject matter, participant services, and funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the conference serves as a forum where civic leaders, educators, students, social workers, non-profit organizations, union and corporate representatives, Hispanic/Latino advocacy groups, and concerned citizens can exchange views, network, and review information-enabling all to better identify and understand issues affecting the Hispanic/Latino and greater community. CHIP also hosts a Medical Corner offering multiple medical and mental health screenings, on-site doctors and nurses, and extensive information on medical programs, with product samples and giveaways; and

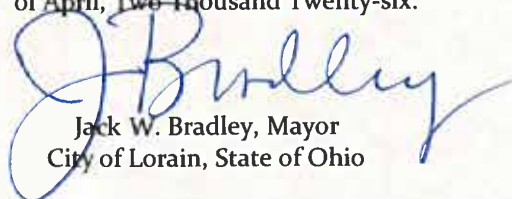
**WHEREAS**, this event, revolving around the theme "Abriendo Puertas" (Opening Doors), continues providing immense rejuvenation and essential strategizing benefits to organizations, non-profits, and individuals working tirelessly on behalf of the Hispanic/Latino and at-large community; and

**WHEREAS**, in alignment with this year's theme, "Historias de Esperanza" (Stories of Hope), we recognize and uplift the importance of addressing critical issues that shape our communities.

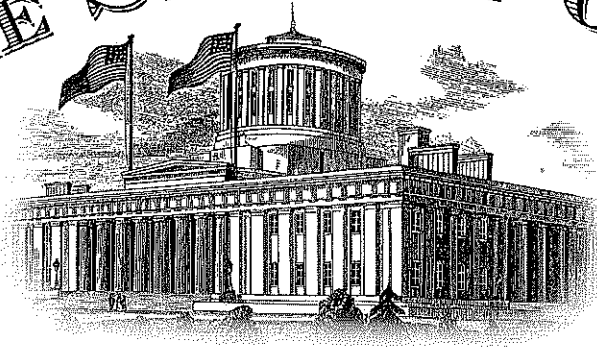
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jack W. Bradley, Mayor of the City of Lorain, do hereby recognize the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress (CHIP) as the organization celebrates its 27th Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference. The citizens of Lorain thank you for your hard work and dedication to improving the lives of our Hispanic population in the City of Lorain and surrounding area. You are truly "Lorain Proud!" Keep up the great work!



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the great seal of the City of Lorain to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, Two Thousand Twenty-six.

  
Jack W. Bradley, Mayor  
City of Lorain, State of Ohio

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
**THE STATE OF OHIO**



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF

REPRESENTATIVE JOE MILLER  
HOUSE DISTRICT 53

On behalf of the members of the House of Representatives of the 136th General Assembly of Ohio, I am pleased to congratulate

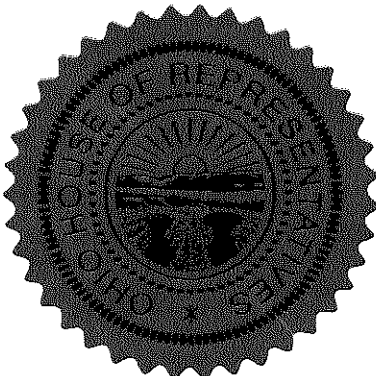
**THE COALITION FOR HISPANIC/LATINO ISSUES & PROGRESS**

on hosting its 27<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Leadership Conference.

Lorain is proudly known as the International City, and organizations like CHIP ensure that the city's vibrant diversity continues to strengthen it. By promoting self-sufficiency, cooperation and unity within the Hispanic/Latino community, CHIP helps the community access resources, engage in the decision-making process, and improve overall quality of life.

As new challenges continue to emerge, it is more important now than ever to have strong advocates and voices for the Hispanic/Latino community. Through education, celebration, and unity, CHIP will undoubtedly confront these challenges head on.

Thus, we commend you on hosting your 27th Hispanic Leadership Conference.



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joe Miller".

**JOE MILLER**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

C.H.I.P would like to say...

**GRACIAS**

*Mercy Health*

*&  
Dr. Thomas*

**For your continued  
support and  
collaboration!**

*Wishing you continued success!*

## Hispanic

One people, so many bloods  
The Hispanic people against the odds.  
European, Asian, dark as the night.  
Blond and blue eyed, exceedingly white.

Beautiful full lips, and beguiling eyes,  
Brown, black, green, and as blue as the skies.  
Full bodied women and handsome men,  
If we don't have it, it can't be seen.

In us is the black man from Africa,  
And the blue eyed Spaniard from afar.  
The Aztec warrior so brave and proud,  
The red headed Irish, so gallant and loud.

The noble red man, with his stoic face,  
Yes, we are a mongrel race.  
But no finer people will you find,  
Because through it all, we are all kinds.

The greatest singers, and artists too,  
Now we are many, once we were so few.  
Gaze into a Hispanic face,  
And you will find the human race.

Poem by Juan Olivarez



## **Latino Affairs Commission**

**Serving the Hispanic/Latino Community  
in Ohio since 1977!**

**Subscribe to our newsletters, follow us  
on social media, and email us at  
[OCHLA.OLAnet@ochla.ohio.gov](mailto:OCHLA.OLAnet@ochla.ohio.gov)**



**SIGN UP**



OCHLA Newsletters

**Grant Opportunities**  
**Public Policy Updates**



**Latino Affairs  
Commission**





## Did you know?

The Hispanic/Latino population in Ohio is young and vibrant and currently comprises over **607,000** individuals or **5.1%** of Ohio's total population. We live in all 88 counties, and we represent one of Ohio's fastest growing workforce populations. Our median age is **28 YEARS** (compared to 39.8 years for all Ohioans) and there are over 144,000 Hispanic/Latino students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.

In 2023, Hispanic/Latino Ohioans contributed **\$31.3 BILLION** to Ohio's economy. From 2018 to 2023, Latino GDP in Ohio increased at an average annual rate of **7.6%**, adjusted for inflation, and accounted for **11.9%** of the state's total economic growth.

Additionally, there are **3,000** Hispanic/Latino-owned businesses with paid employees. These businesses provide employment for 30,000 Ohioans and generate an annual payroll of nearly **\$1.1 BILLION**. These businesses boost job creation, household income, and tax revenue for the state.

Latino communities are not only part of Ohio's history—they are central to its future. Latinos are builders, innovators, caregivers, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Their contributions are woven into the fabric of Ohio's identity. **The Ohio Latino Affairs Commission works to ensure that these contributions are recognized, understood, and supported.**

Ohio Department of Development Office of Research, Ohio Hispanic Americans: Snapshot from the 2024 American Community Survey.

José A. Jurado, Dennis Hoffman, and Sean Ewen, The 2025 Official LDC U.S. Latino GDP Report™: 8th Annual Edition, Part Two—A Quantitative Assessment of the U.S. Economy and the Pivotal Role of Latinos in Our Nation (Phoenix: Arizona State University, produced by the Latino Donor Collaborative; sponsored by Wells Fargo, 2025).



Latino Affairs  
Commission

Save the Date!



# OCHLA's **Legislative Visit Day**



Wednesday, May 5th, 2027



The Ohio Statehouse



Columbus, Ohio

# Making Your Voting Plan for 2026

**Recent changes to Ohio’s Election Law may increase the chance that you are required to verify your citizenship or identity at the polls on Election Day.**

Even after you become a U.S. citizen, your Ohio I.D. may still display a “**noncitizen**” label. Under Ohio law, if your I.D. has this label, **you must bring additional proof of citizenship when you vote**—even if your voter registration already shows you are a citizen.

## **Acceptable documents to verify citizenship at the poll include:**

- A current **U.S. passport**, passport card, or copies of their identification pages.
- A **birth certificate**, report of birth certification, or consular report of birth abroad.
- A **Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship** (or a copy).
- An **I-797 Notice of Action for Form N-565**, showing an approved application to replace a naturalization document.

**Additionally, if your legal name has changed**, you must bring documentation showing the name change (e.g., marriage certificate, court order).

Bring **multiple documents** if you can. It makes verification easier and reduces the chance of delays.

## **If Your Citizenship Cannot Be Verified at the Poll**

If your citizenship cannot be verified at the poll, you may be asked to cast a **provisional ballot**. A provisional ballot is a temporary ballot that will only be counted once your information is verified.

If you previously provided proof of citizenship to the BMV, you may provide your Ohio DL/ID number on the provisional ballot envelope, and the election officials must ask the Secretary of State to confirm your citizenship in the BMV’s records. **If not, you must appear at the board of elections and provide proof of citizenship by the fourth day after Election Day for your vote to be counted.**

Learn more about acceptable proof of identity and scenarios in which you may be required to cast a provisional ballot at [ohiosos.gov/elections](https://ohiosos.gov/elections).

## **Final Tips for a Smooth Voting Experience**

- Make sure your voter registration is up to date at [voterlookup.ohiosos.gov](https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov).
- Consider voting early, which gives you extra time to resolve any citizenship verification issues before Election Day. Make an early voting plan by visiting [ohiosos.gov/elections](https://ohiosos.gov/elections).
- If you have questions, contact your local board of elections; your vote matters to them, and they want to help you place it! Visit [ohiosos.gov/directories/county-boards-of-elections](https://ohiosos.gov/directories/county-boards-of-elections).

# Haciendo su Plan de Votación para 2026

Los cambios recientes en la Ley Electoral de Ohio pueden aumentar la posibilidad de que se le pida verificar su ciudadanía o identidad en las urnas el Día de las Elecciones.

Incluso después de convertirse en ciudadano estadounidense, su identificación de Ohio puede seguir mostrando la etiqueta “noncitizen”. Según la ley de Ohio, si su identificación tiene esta etiqueta, **debe llevar documentación adicional que pruebe su ciudadanía cuando vote**, incluso si su registro de votante ya indica que usted es ciudadano.

## Los documentos aceptables para verificar la ciudadanía en las urnas incluyen:

- Un **pasaporte estadounidense** vigente, tarjeta de pasaporte o copias de sus páginas de identificación.
- Un **certificado de nacimiento**, informe de certificación de nacimiento o informe consular de nacimiento en el extranjero.
- Un **Certificado de Naturalización o Certificado de Ciudadanía** (o una copia).
- Un **aviso I-797 de acción para el Formulario N-565** que muestre una solicitud aprobada para reemplazar un documento de naturalización.

Además, si su nombre legal ha cambiado, debe llevar documentación que muestre el cambio de nombre (por ejemplo, certificado de matrimonio u orden judicial).

Lleve **varios documentos si puede**. Esto facilita la verificación y reduce la posibilidad de retrasos.

## Si No Se Puede Verificar su Ciudadanía en las Urnas

Si no se puede verificar su ciudadanía en las urnas, es posible que se le pida emitir una **boleta provisional**. Una boleta provisional es una boleta temporal que solo se contará una vez que su información sea verificada.

Si anteriormente proporcionó prueba de ciudadanía al BMV, puede escribir su número de licencia/identificación de Ohio en el sobre de la boleta provisional, y los funcionarios electorales deben pedir al Secretario de Estado que confirme su ciudadanía en los registros del BMV. **Si no es así, debe presentarse en la junta electoral y proporcionar prueba de ciudadanía antes del cuarto día después del Día de las Elecciones para que su voto sea contado.**

Obtenga más información sobre pruebas aceptables de identidad y situaciones en las que puede ser necesario emitir una boleta provisional en [ohiosos.gov/elections](https://ohiosos.gov/elections).

## Consejos Finales para una Experiencia de Votación sin Problemas

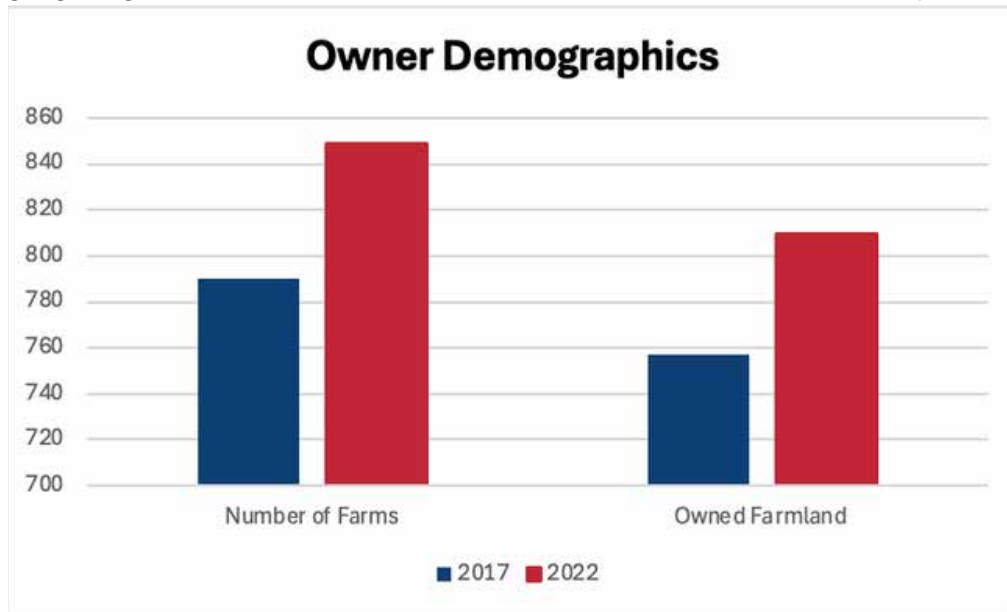
- Asegúrese de que su registro de votante esté actualizado en [voterlookup.ohiosos.gov](https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov).
- Considere votar por adelantado, lo cual le da tiempo adicional para resolver cualquier problema de verificación de ciudadanía antes del Día de las Elecciones. Haga un plan para votar por adelantado visitando [ohiosos.gov/elections](https://ohiosos.gov/elections).
- Si tiene preguntas, comuníquese con su junta electoral local; su voto es importante para ellos y quieren ayudarle a emitirlo. Visite [ohiosos.gov/directories/county-boards-of-elections](https://ohiosos.gov/directories/county-boards-of-elections).

# THE IMPACT OF HISPANIC/LATINO OHIOANS ON OHIO'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES



## OVERVIEW

This research explores the impact of Hispanic/Latino Ohioans in Ohio's agricultural sector, highlighting their contributions to the state's workforce and community development.



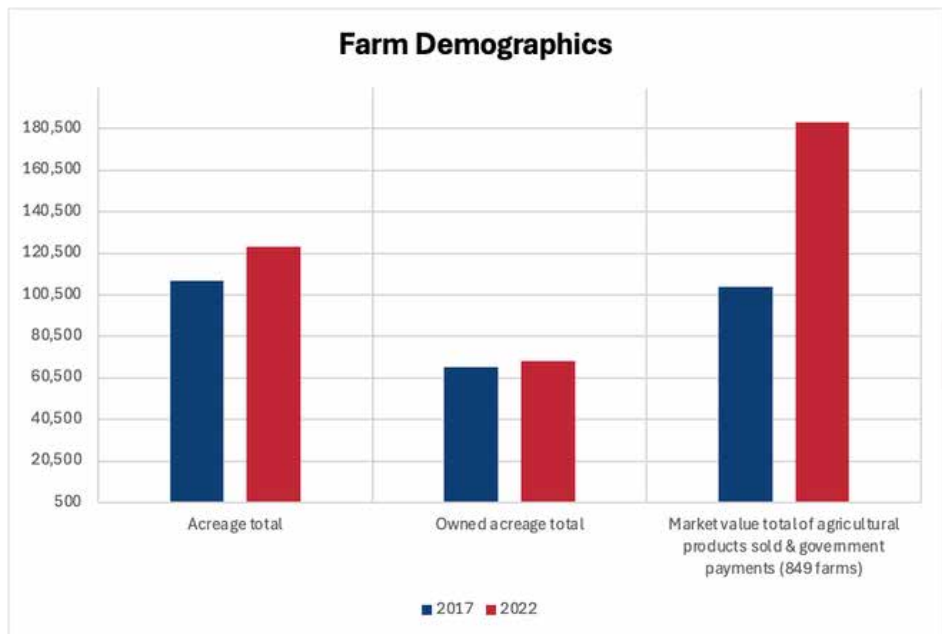
**QUICK FACTS:**

- 485 Hispanic/Latino plant farmers
- 429 Hispanic/Latino livestock, dairy, poultry/egg, and aquaculture farmers

## HISPANIC/LATINOS IN AGRICULTURE

Farmland ownership, acreage, and agricultural market value have steadily increased among Hispanic/Latino Ohioans between 2017 and 2022.

**ACCESS TO LABOR:**  
 "We've actually been able to increase some acres...because we're confident it's going to get picked."



# KEY FINDINGS

**Hispanic/Latino farmers and farmworkers are not only integral to Ohio’s labor force, they are also entrepreneurs, leaders, and cultural stewards, who strengthen the state’s local food systems and rural community resilience.**

## ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

*\*Data obtained from Dr. Margaret Jodlowski, The Ohio State University*

**About 24% of Hispanic/Latino farmers operate farms that earn the highest sales.**

**In 2022, more Hispanic/Latino farmers reached this top level than at any time in the past 20 years, according to the U.S. Census.**

**The total market value of agricultural products produced by Hispanic/Latino farmers in Ohio in 2022 was \$23,189,500.**

**The largest share of gross sales came from farms with annual sales of \$50,000 or more.**

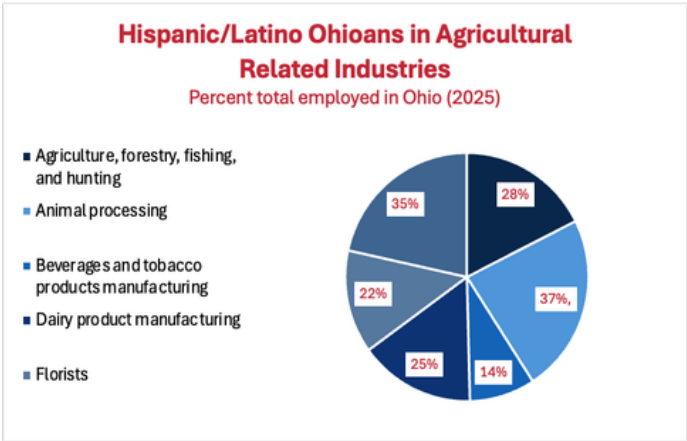
**Ohio is on track to have ~1,000 Hispanic/Latino farmers, with 25% in the highest economic class.**

**The highest economic class of farmers is growing on average 17% between each Census.**

## AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE CONTRIBUTIONS

*They helped us keep the farm afloat.” - Ohio Farmer*

- Every producer interviewed mentioned being able to increase their productivity because of the presence of H-2A workers.
- Hispanic/Latino farm owners and grocers draw on cultural knowledge, conservation practices, and multi-generational food system traditions to support both economic and communal activity (Rivas-Aceves, Schmidt, & Velázquez-Salazar, 2025)



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ohio farmers have expressed interest in learning Spanish to improve communication with their workforce
- There is a growing need to expand bilingual education and workforce development opportunities that support Ohio’s Hispanic/Latino producers
- Farmers require improved access to clear, timely resources that help them understand evolving laws and regulations affecting agriculture

C.H.I.P. WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE  
LORAIN HIGH CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM!



**LIGHTHOUSE GRILLE RESTAURANT LORAIN HIGH SCHOOL 2600 ASHLAND AVENUE, LORAIN**

The Lighthouse Grille will be open for lunch service this semester from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and reservations are required. Guests can choose from three convenient reservation times: 11:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., or 12:30 p.m.

Available reservation dates are as follows:

- February 18, 19, 24, 25
- March 11, 12, 17, 18
- April 14, 15, 22, 23
- May - Closed for the month

**Come out, enjoy a great meal, and support our talented Culinary Titans.**

Come and enjoy a delicious meal while supporting our talented culinary students! The season is closing, but save the code for future reservations!

**BOOK NOW** 



THE  
Residence Inn & EMERALD  
Event Center  
**Welcomes You!**



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33040 Just Imagine Drive  
Avon, Ohio 44011  
440-937-0909

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BY MARRIOTT

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EVENT CENTER



# Foster Care in Lorain County



## Why Hispanic & Latino Families Are Essential

### The Need is Real

<b>11%</b>	Of Lorain County's population identify as Hispanic (~35,000 people)	<b>38</b>	Hispanic children entered foster care in 2025
<b>11,000</b>	Hispanic children live in Lorain County	<b>19</b>	Hispanic children exited foster care in 2025
<b>103</b>	Hispanic children experienced abuse or neglect in 2025	<b>28</b>	Hispanic foster homes currently licensed with LCCS (~18% of homes)
<b>63</b>	Hispanic children resided in foster care at the end of 2025	<b>7</b>	Hispanic children currently reside in group homes outside of Lorain County

### Maintaining Cultural Connections

When children can remain connected to their language, traditions, and community, they are better equipped to **build resilience, maintain self-esteem, and achieve positive long-term outcomes.**

**Culture is not "extra", it is part of a child's identity and well-being. Culture provides a sense of belonging, stability, and self-understanding, especially during times of trauma and transition.**



### Stop thinking. Start doing.

If you've ever thought about becoming a foster parent, this is your sign to take the next step. Children in our community need caring adults now, and you may be more ready than you think.

**You do not need to be perfect to foster. You just need to be willing to care.**

- You do **not** have to be married
- You do **not** have to own your home, you can rent
- You do **not** need prior parenting experience
- You **will** receive training, guidance, and ongoing support
- **Financial assistance is available** to help meet a child's needs

With Lorain County Children Services, you are never alone. Our team will walk with you every step of the way, from your application and home study to first placement and beyond.

**Your decision to foster today can change a child's life forever.**

440-329-5608

[www.ChildrenServices.org](http://www.ChildrenServices.org)

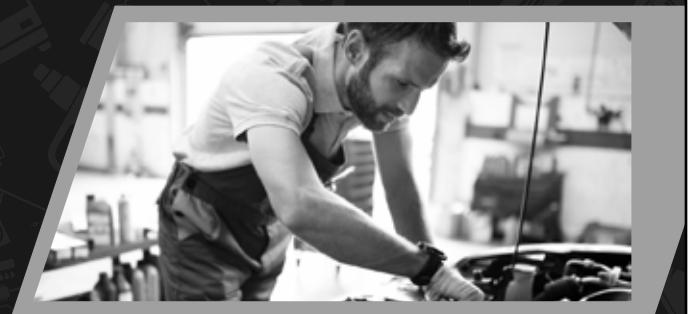
[JudithPadua@childrenservices.org](mailto:JudithPadua@childrenservices.org)



**SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
FOR 15 YEARS**

## **PROFESSIONAL CAR SERVICES**

- NEW & USED TIRES
- BRAKE REPAIRS
- ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS
- SUSPENSION REPAIRS
- TRANSMISSION SERVICE
- TIRE ALIGNMENTS



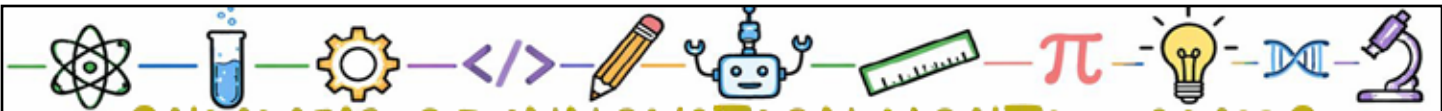
440-240-CARS



[www.28thstreetautorepair.com](http://www.28thstreetautorepair.com)



1716 E 28<sup>th</sup> St, Lorain



# SUMMER OF INNOVATION YOUTH CAMPS

Monday - Thursday 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

June 22nd - August 13th

**FREE!**

Exciting Summer Adventures for Youth  
Entering 2nd - 7th Grades

Designed to have your child walk away excited and enriched following a STE(A)M-filled, action-packed and fun summer!



Scan the QR Code  
to Visit Our Website!

Summer Camp Presented By:



## Program Details

- Each week-long camp's enrollment is limited to **60 available free scholarships** for children.
- All program costs are included in available free scholarships awarded to campers.
- There will be no cost to parents for participation in the Summer of Innovation (SOI) Youth Camps.
- The SOI program will be presented as 8 separate STE(A)M-focused sessions 4 days per week (Monday through Thursday). Parents can choose 1 or more of the weekly sessions. We encourage selecting ALL!
- Every **Wednesday is swimming day** at Maude Neiding (starting week 2 pending pool availability).
- Program applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis and can be picked up and returned to the following location: **Greater Victory Christian Ministries (559 Reid Ave, Lorain).**
- Completed applications must be received by **Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>** at the above location (please place in the slot at door on Reid side of the building if after hours or on a weekend).
- Transportation to / from the program is parent responsibility. **Pickup no later than 3:15 PM Monday through Thursday.**
- Any child displaying inappropriate behavior will be released from the program.

## Weekly Themes

**Week 1 (June 22 - June 25th)**

Let's Get Moving → RUN, JUMP, PLAY!

**Week 2 (June 29 - July 2nd)**

Let's Get Wet → SPLASH INTO FUN!

**Week 3 (July 6th - July 9th)**

Let's Get Colorful → MAKE A MESS!

**Week 4 (July 13th - July 16th)**

Let's Get Scientific → MIX IT UP!

**Week 5 (July 20th - July 23rd)**

Let's Get Artsy → CREATE SOMETHING AWESOME!

**Week 6 (July 27th - July 30th)**

Let's Get Thinking → CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT?!

**Week 7 (August 3rd - August 6th)**

Let's Get Launching → 3...2...1... BLAST OFF!

**Week 8 (August 10th - August 13th)**

Let's Get Celebrating → ONE FINAL HOORAH!

## Summer Camp Location

GREATER VICTORY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

559 Reid Avenue - Lorain, OH 44052

For More Information: Mrs. Patti 440-654-8018 / Mr. Mike 440-336-1501 / Mrs. Jess 440-670-6211

Presented By: A.C.E.S. Lorain County ([www.acesloraincounty.com](http://www.acesloraincounty.com))

Sponsored by Nordson Corporation, Community Foundation of Lorain County, Nord Family Foundation and the Lorain Cooperative Ministries



Angel Arroyo Jr.  
COUNCILMAN

6th Ward



Congratulations

To the Coalition for  
Hispanic/Latinos & Progress on  
your 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic  
Leadership Conference

El Centro de  
Servicios Sociales

# ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY BASH!

**Cultura Comunidad  
Mental Health &  
Financial Empowerment**

Saturday, September 12th

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

2800 Pearl Ave. Lorain

Local Artist & Vendors | Food  
| Music | Car show & More!

If you would like to volunteer, please  
reach out to us at:

440-277-8235

or email us at:

[elcentroblockparty@lorainelcentro.org](mailto:elcentroblockparty@lorainelcentro.org)



**EL CENTRO**  
de SERVICIOS  
SOCIALES, INC.



*We care about you and your health.*

**Congratulations CHIP  
on your 27th Annual Hispanic  
Leadership Conference & Gala**

**Our Mission**

To make a lasting difference in our members' lives by improving their health and well-being.

**Our Vision**

Transforming lives through innovative health and life services.

[caresource.com](http://caresource.com)



LORAIN COUNTY  
CHILDREN SERVICES

# Foster Families Needed in Lorain County

HELP A CHILD STAY  
CONNECTED TO THEIR HOME,  
CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY



## The Need

In 2025, Lorain County Children Services received **5,451 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect**.

Of those reports, **1,801 warranted further investigation**.

As a result, **368 children were placed in care**.

## The Impact

Across Lorain County, children enter foster care almost every day, often separated from their families, culture, and sense of belonging. When there aren't enough local foster families, children are placed outside their community, losing critical connections during an already difficult time.

By opening your heart and your home, you could be the reason a child is able to remain within their community.

## Take The First Steps

- 1. Inquire**
  - a. Call 440-329-5608 or scan the QR code below to complete an inquiry.
- 2. Review**
  - a. A packet containing information about the process will be sent to you.
- 3. Training**
  - a. Attend preservice training to learn more about foster parenting.
- 4. Assessment**
  - a. An LCCS caseworker will guide you through the family assessment process.

**Scan to make a difference in a child's life**



## Be the reason a child feels at home



## Congratulations to Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress!

On behalf of Comité Mexicano de Cleveland, we extend our sincere congratulations to the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues and Progress (CHIP) on your 27th Annual Conference & Gala.

Your continued dedication to empowering the Hispanic/Latino community in Lorain and across Northeast Ohio is truly inspiring. We are proud to stand alongside you in advancing opportunity, equity, and cultural pride.

**¡Felicidades por este gran logro!**



**Comité Mexicano de Cleveland**

13609 Lakewood Heights Blvd Cleveland, OH 44107  
[www.comitemexicanodecleveland.org](http://www.comitemexicanodecleveland.org)



**SAVE THE DATE**

**¡VIVA MÉXICO!**

**CELEBRACIÓN DÍA DE LA INDEPENDENCIA**  
**COMITÉ MEXICANO DE CLEVELAND**  
**SEPTIEMBRE 12, 2026**

**Save the Date**  
**November 6, 2026**

**Noche de Catrinas Gala!**

[www.comitemexicanodecleveland.org](http://www.comitemexicanodecleveland.org)

**Comité Mexicano de Cleveland**

Para mas informacion mandanos un email!  
For additional details send us en email!  
[info@comitemexicanodecleveland.org](mailto:info@comitemexicanodecleveland.org)



ms.daynaevents@gmail.com

# MS. DAYNA'S

*Events & Weddings*

Event Coordinator



## ABOUT ME

We are an all inclusive events planning and management company. We'll manage every aspect of your event, from beginning to end. You enjoy the memories, without the headaches.

Planning

Communication

Organization

Logistics Support

## CONGRATULATIONS CHIP

On your 27<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Hispanic Leadership  
Conference!



*Visit me in the  
Medical Corner*



**Dr. Robert Thomas**  
**Primary Care, Internal Medicine**

**[mercy.com](https://www.mercy.com)**

# DONAT DE LA CRUZ



**Armando Donat De La Cruz** (onelovehustle) is a New York City-based spoken word poet, artist, and educator focused on healing, community, and personal storytelling. He often performs at events like The Sanctuary and leads workshops on poetry and mental health. His work blends emotional testimony with social consciousness. C.H.I.P is thrilled for his return at this year's conference!

# GALA ENTERTAINMENT



## **ABREPASO Flamenco Dance Company**

Experience the passion and intensity of flamenco as ABREPASO takes the stage. Through intricate footwork, powerful rhythms, and expressive storytelling, their performance captures the soul of Spanish tradition.



## **DJ Abner "Gozadera" Santiago**

With over three decades of experience, DJ Abner keeps the celebration alive with a dynamic mix of Latin favorites and crowd-pleasing hits.



## **Ropa Vieja – Live Latin Music**

Ropa Vieja brings an electrifying blend of Latin sounds that will fill the room with energy and joy, fusing salsa, merengue, cumbia, and tropical rhythms.

**Let the rhythm guide you. Let the culture move you. Let the celebration begin.**



**NOT A TAX INCREASE**

 VOTE FOR  
**ISSUE 15**  
SAVES LIVES



NORDSON IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE

# 27th Anniversary Hispanic Leadership Conference

[nordson.com](http://nordson.com)





## ATENCIÓN DE CALIDAD. CON LA CONFIANZA DE GENERACIONES

- Al servicio de las familias desde 1978 (sin fines de lucro)
- 14 ubicaciones en los condados de Cuyahoga y Lorain.
- De 6 semanas a 14 años

### PROGRAMAS OFRECIDOS:

- Cuidado de bebés y niños pequeños
- Preescolar
- Antes y después de la escuela

### ¿POR QUÉ ELEGIR HORIZON?

- Programas de alta calidad del Estado de Ohio
- Cuidado durante todo el año (incluyendo cierres escolares)
- Abierto de 6:30 AM a 6:00PM, de lunes a viernes.
- Se aceptan vales del condado y asistencia estatal.

**BRINDE A SU HIJO UN LUGAR SEGURO Y ENRIQUECEDOR PARA APRENDER Y CRECER.**

¡Inscriba a su hijo hoy en Horizon Education Centers!

**HORIZONOHIO.ORG**



### QUALITY CARE. TRUSTED FOR GENERATIONS.

- Serving families since 1978 (non-profit)
- 14 locations across Cuyahoga & Lorain Counties
- Ages 6 weeks - 14 years

### PROGRAMS OFFERED:

- Infant & Toddler Care
- Preschool
- Before & Afterschool

### WHY CHOOSE HORIZON?

- State of Ohio high-quality rated programs
- Year-round care (including school closures)
- Open 6:30 AM - 6:00 PM, Mon-Fri
- County vouchers & state assistance accepted

### GIVE YOUR CHILD A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW.

Enroll today at Horizon Education Centers or visit [HorizonOhio.org](http://HorizonOhio.org)

LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

Thousands turn to Lorain County Community College to launch their careers in Healthcare, Cybersecurity, Public Safety, Manufacturing, Engineering and more. Our grads make Lorain County stronger.

**ENROLL  
TODAY!**

[www.lorainccc.edu](http://www.lorainccc.edu)



Lorain County  
Community College



**“Not all readers are leaders,  
but all leaders are readers.”  
– Harry S. Truman**



**Main Library**  
351 W. Sixth Street, Lorain  
440-244-1192



**South Lorain Branch**  
2121 Homewood Drive, Lorain  
440-277-5672



**Domonkas Branch**  
4125 E. Lake Road, Sheffield Lake  
440-949-7410

Your Lorain Public Library System has been inspiring, educating, guiding and helping to prepare the future generations of leaders for 125 years.

The levies that provide the operating revenue for our Main Library, South Lorain Branch and Domonkas Branch are on the May 5 ballot.

### **These are not new taxes.**

Issue #6 for Lorain is a ten-year renewal of the current levy. It will cost the owner of a home in Lorain valued at \$100,000 \$118 per year.

Issue #7 for Sheffield Lake is a 2.2 mills replacement of the current 2.95 mills from two levies (2.2 and .75 mills respectively) begun in 2016. It will cost the owner of a home in Sheffield Lake valued at \$100,000 \$77.04 per year.

If these levies were to fail, drastic cuts will have to be made, which will include:

- Reduction of staff and operating hours.
- Elimination of ALL of the free programming including the after school tutoring.
- Cutting the library materials budget, resulting in fewer purchases of new books, new DVDs, new audiobooks and new CDs.

# La Prensa is a proud supporter of C.H.I.P.'s Hispanic Leadership Conference

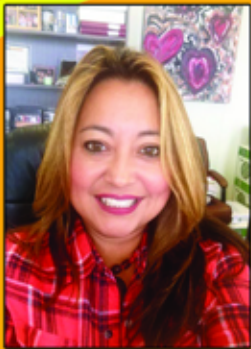
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in Spanish with English supertitles.

Written by *Griselda Gambaro*

Directed by *Fabio Polanco*

**May 22nd**  
*till* **June 7th**



**Fri, Sat 7:30pm**  
**Sun 2:30pm**

**LatinUs Blackbox Theater**

2937 West 25th St.

(inside the Pivot Center)

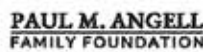
Cleveland, OH 44113

216-369-7158



Get your tickets on

**LatinUstheater.com**





# Lorain County Visitors Bureau



### **The Role of the Lorain County Prosecutor**

The Lorain County Prosecutor's Office represents the State of Ohio in all felony criminal cases arising in Lorain County. The Office prosecutes serious offenses, including violent crime, firearm-related offenses, and major drug trafficking cases, and handles matters from indictment through sentencing and appeal. Prosecutors advise law enforcement agencies, present cases to the grand jury, enforce firearm and repeat-offender specifications, and advocate for crime victims while ensuring the protection of constitutional rights. The mission of the Office is to aggressively prosecute criminal activity to enhance public safety, uphold the rule of law, and support the County's long-term economic stability.

The Prosecutor's Office works closely with municipal police departments, the Lorain County Sheriff's Office, and regional task forces, particularly in cases involving firearms and controlled substances. In calendar year 2025, 2,163 cases were indicted, and as of April 2026, 482 cases have been indicted. During 2025, 1,963 defendants pleaded guilty or were found guilty after trial, with 503 defendants pleading guilty or being found guilty in 2026 year-to-date. Firearm-related offenses remain a significant focus of the Office. Firearm specifications, which carry mandatory prison sentences, are prioritized due to the heightened risk to public safety posed by the presence and use of firearms in criminal conduct. Drug prosecutions—especially those involving fentanyl—continue to make up a substantial portion of the felony docket and require sustained coordination with law enforcement to address the ongoing crisis.

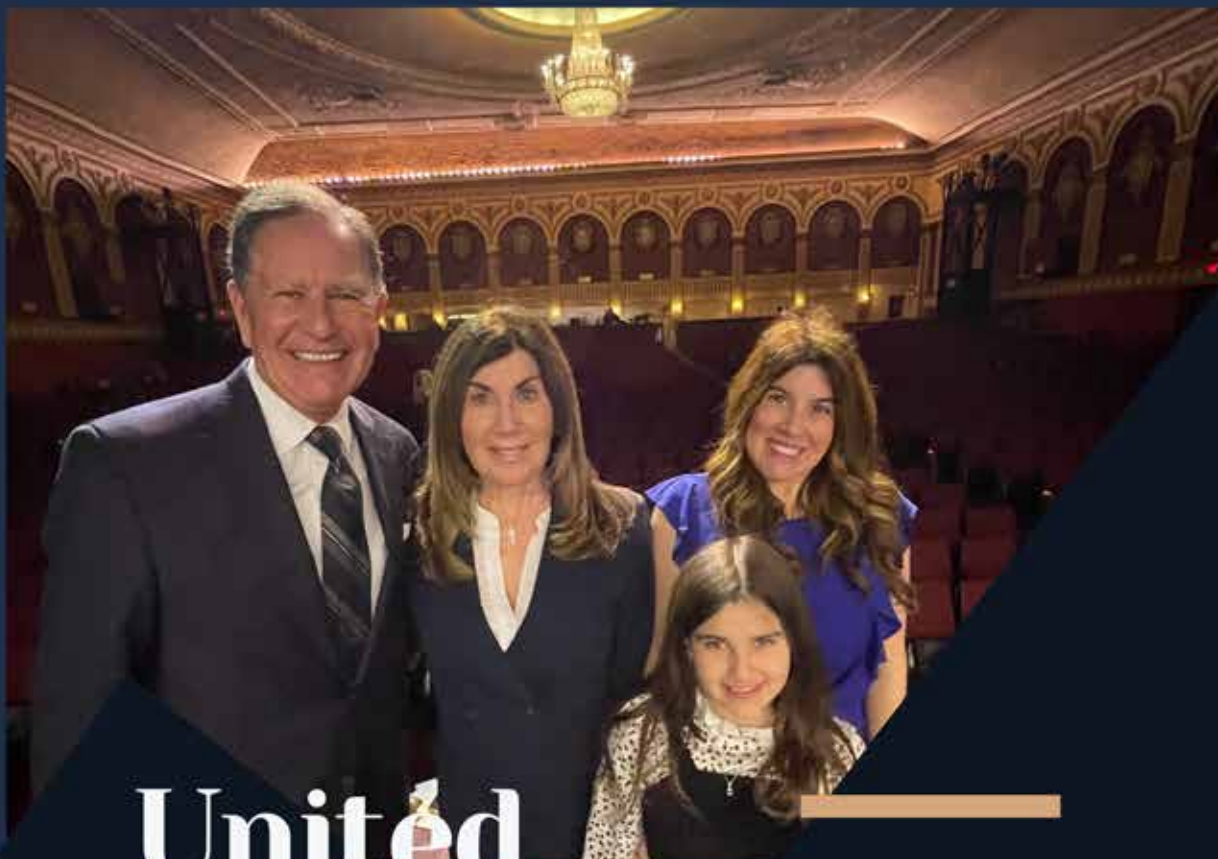
Beyond criminal prosecution, the Civil Division represents Lorain County and its elected officials, departments, boards, and agencies in civil litigation, administrative proceedings, and transactional matters. This work includes defending the County in lawsuits, providing legal advice and formal opinions, drafting contracts and resolutions, and ensuring legal compliance. Through these efforts, the Prosecutor's Office protects taxpayer interests and supports the lawful and effective operation of county government.

The Domestic Relations Division plays a crucial role in protecting children and families. The division establishes and enforces child support orders, represents Lorain County Children Services, and prosecutes cases involving abused, neglected, and dependent children. Prosecutors advocate for child safety to promote family stability and public welfare.

The Prosecutor's Office also offers law student internship opportunities that provide meaningful exposure to public service and criminal law through legal research, motion drafting, and observation of court proceedings, including jury trials and sentencing.

Through its criminal, civil, and domestic relations functions, the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office serves a vital role in advancing justice, protecting the vulnerable, and ensuring government accountability. Its comprehensive approach strengthens public safety, supports families, and upholds the integrity of the legal system for the residents of Lorain County.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 27 YEARS OF HISPANIC LEADERSHIP!



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we Can  
Unidos  
Podemos

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Y FAMILIA  
DAN SUS  
FELICITACIONES  
POR 27 AÑOS!



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Habla con alguien sobre tus pensamientos y sentimientos.



Llame al 988 ahora si necesita ayuda con cualquiera de los siguientes:

- Pensamientos de suicidio
- Beber demasiado
- Usar drogas
- Sentirse deprimido
- Lidiar con un trauma



**Mental Health,  
Addiction & Recovery  
Services Board of  
Lorain County**

AYUDANDO A LAS FAMILIAS EN CRISIS

La línea directa de crisis y suicidio 988 ofrece acceso a profesionales capacitados que pueden ayudar a las personas que atraviesan una crisis de salud mental o consumo de sustancias.

1173 North Ridge Road, East, Suite 101, Lorain, Ohio 440-233-2020 [mharslc.org](http://mharslc.org)

# Mercy Health Community Outreach Program

Improving Health Outcomes for Lorain County

## What is the Community Outreach Program?

The Community Outreach Program is dedicated to improving health outcomes for Lorain County residents in need of community resources. Through free preventive health screenings, health education, and initiatives that address social determinants of health (SDOH), we're helping individuals and families live healthier lives.

## Who we serve?

We focus on reaching Lorain County residents who are in need of community resources—individuals and families who face barriers to accessing health care and other essential resources.

Our outreach prioritizes:

- Communities with high rates of chronic illness
- Individuals at risk for health complications due to social or economic challenges
- Residents with limited access to preventive care and health education

## Services Offered:



- Blood pressure screenings
- Point-of-care testing for cholesterol and glucose
- BMI assessments
- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screenings to identify and address non-medical barriers to health
- Chronic disease and health education tailored to individual and community needs
- Referrals to primary care physicians

Our Community Outreach Program services are available for community events, health fairs, and organizational gatherings.

**To schedule a health screening or request our presence at your event:**

**Phone: 440-989-3900**

**Email: [lorcommunityoutreach@mercy.com](mailto:lorcommunityoutreach@mercy.com)**



# CLIENTS SAY IT BEST

## Meet David Arocho

David Arocho is a seasoned Mortgage Loan Originator with over 25 years of experience, consistently ranked in the top 1% of loan officers nationwide. As one of Zillow's most reviewed and highest-rated professionals, he delivers exceptional service backed by a dedicated team of experts to guide clients through every step of the mortgage process.



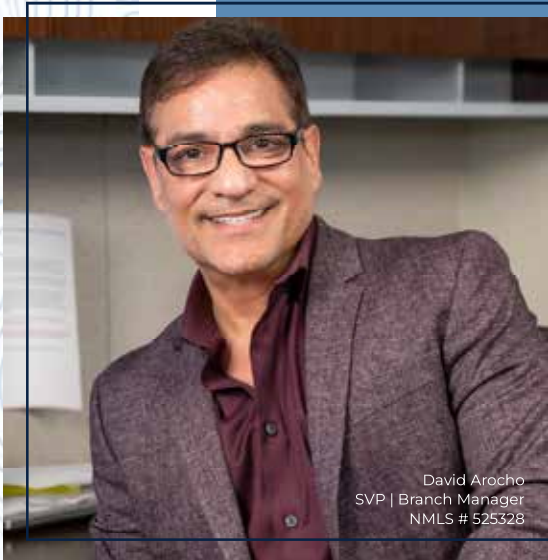
Team Arocho

Working with David felt like we had a personal advisor accessible 24/7. In today's competitive market, David went above and beyond to support us in our search of a new home and ensured our approval process went as smooth as possible. Communication was stellar, secure document upload system was flawless and entire process from start to finish very smooth.

- Lucas

The home buying process can be incredibly stressful. We did not have that experience with NFM Lending. David was quick to respond to our questions and reached out promptly when information or documents were needed from us. All in all, it was a wonderful and painless experience. I'd recommend NFM Lending to anyone.

- Julie



David Arocho  
SVP | Branch Manager  
NMLS # 525328

### CONTACT THE AROCHO TEAM TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

P: 614-840-5013

E: Teamarocho@nfmlending.com

1900 Polaris Pkwy, Ste. 203  
Columbus, OH 43240

<https://nfmlending.com/loanoriginator/david-archo/>



Equal Housing Lender. Make sure you understand the features associated with the loan program you choose, and that it meets your unique financial needs. Subject to Debt-to-Income and Underwriting requirements. This is not a credit decision or a commitment to lend. Eligibility is subject to completion of an application and verification of home ownership, occupancy, title, income, employment, credit, home value, collateral, and underwriting requirements. Not all programs are available in all areas. Offers may vary and are subject to change at any time without notice. For NFM Lending LLC's full agency and state licensing information, please visit [www.nfmlending.com/licensing](http://www.nfmlending.com/licensing). NFM Lending LLC's NMLS # 26993 ( [www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) ). © 2025 NFM Lending LLC. America's Common Sense Lender®. Trade/service marks are the property of NFM Lending LLC and/or its subsidiaries. Licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. [www.nfmlending.com](http://www.nfmlending.com) Testimonials appearing on this advertisement are individual experiences of those who have used our services. All reviews contained in this advertisement have been collected from [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). For more information please visit [https://www.google.com/search?q=es-v=70b5c3d27d06e643&rlz=1C1GCEU\\_enUS915U915&ssi=APYL9b57Hg2KMLB-41SoTdxOx8BdRvHbYc\\_AuVpNyh0x2kzDX1YnCRoCoNBSGGZedBPCAAm7IErnYlwBmsFNtjIGLTFHOU3K\\_8AJQUTu19Ue3amOD0r-HMdcU8yH6IOxeJID2FVYVamx8HVaW2AwXEI8aNH5rGFc05BG3k6e2V8Dbrk%3D&q=David+Arocho,+NFM+Lending+NMLS,+525328+Reviews&am=X&ved=2ahUKEwif4rec9JaNaxXRYABHRESEv8QDhNegdINhA2&cad=rca=1747334395387253&w=1536&in=695&dp=1,25](https://www.google.com/search?q=es-v=70b5c3d27d06e643&rlz=1C1GCEU_enUS915U915&ssi=APYL9b57Hg2KMLB-41SoTdxOx8BdRvHbYc_AuVpNyh0x2kzDX1YnCRoCoNBSGGZedBPCAAm7IErnYlwBmsFNtjIGLTFHOU3K_8AJQUTu19Ue3amOD0r-HMdcU8yH6IOxeJID2FVYVamx8HVaW2AwXEI8aNH5rGFc05BG3k6e2V8Dbrk%3D&q=David+Arocho,+NFM+Lending+NMLS,+525328+Reviews&am=X&ved=2ahUKEwif4rec9JaNaxXRYABHRESEv8QDhNegdINhA2&cad=rca=1747334395387253&w=1536&in=695&dp=1,25)



ROYAL TEE- OFF FOR HOPE  
SATURDAY JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 TIME 8:00AM  
FOXCREEK GOLF & RACQUET CLUB  
5445 BEAVERCREST DR. LORAIN, OHIO 44053

RESTORING ROYALTY GALA  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 TIME 6:00PM  
ANTLERS BALLROOM  
300 WASHINGTON AVE. LORAIN, OHIO 44052

(Featuring a powerful guest speaker sharing a transformational story from the frontlines of human trafficking)



“SCAN FOR BLESSING”

<https://the-queens-corner.org/pages/events>

“All proceeds go toward building the **King Josiah Center for Restoration**—a 250-bed safe housing facility for children and youth survivors of human trafficking.”

**Raise Up supports and recognizes the great  
work of the Coalition for Hispanic/Latino  
Issues and Progress!**

**Raise Up thanks you for all that you do!**

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Lorain, OH 44052  
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**Always Here. Always Ready.**



PRESENTADO POR



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Alguien está listo para escuchar.

El 988 ofrece apoyo las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, sin juicios, para la salud mental, el consumo de sustancias y más.

**Textea. Llama. Chatea.**

**Siempre aquí. Siempre listos.**

[www.riveonhealth.org](http://www.riveonhealth.org)

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Lorain County Clerk of Courts



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CASA of Lorain  
County  
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2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Elyria, OH  
(440) 329-5556

be who  
you needed.  
Be a CASA



Court Appointed Special Advocates: CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. We need ordinary people committed to help children through extraordinary circumstances.

CASA Volunteers Needed!

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**& ASSOCIATES LLC**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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- Visas de no inmigrante
- Residencia permanente

**(216) 566 - 9908**



# *The Coalition for Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress*

Promoting self-sufficiency, cooperation & unity; to ensure access to available resources improving the quality of life in the Hispanic / Latino community.



Visit our website at: [chiplorain.org](http://chiplorain.org)

## *What we do...*

The organization's activities are designed to further its mission and level the playing field in various arenas for members of the Hispanic/Latino community. These activities range from our Annual Hispanic Leadership Conference which addresses major issues negatively impacting the Hispanic/Latino community; televised Candidate Forums designed to familiarize the Hispanic/Latino community with candidates running for public office; Festivals which promote Hispanic/Latino culture and community involvement; Voter registration drives; Advocacy for Hispanic/Latino and Community issues and against individual and group discrimination.



# Cinco de Mayo Little Queen Coronation!

❖ 5pm Saturday May 2, 2026 ❖

Join our annual Cinco de Mayo Little Queen Coronation to support the 8 pageant contestants

📍 Where: Mexican Mutual Society Courtyard



Seating available, however bringing own chair is also encouraged.



Free Event



Food vendors 3pm til sold out



Raffle

Piñata for kids after Coronation

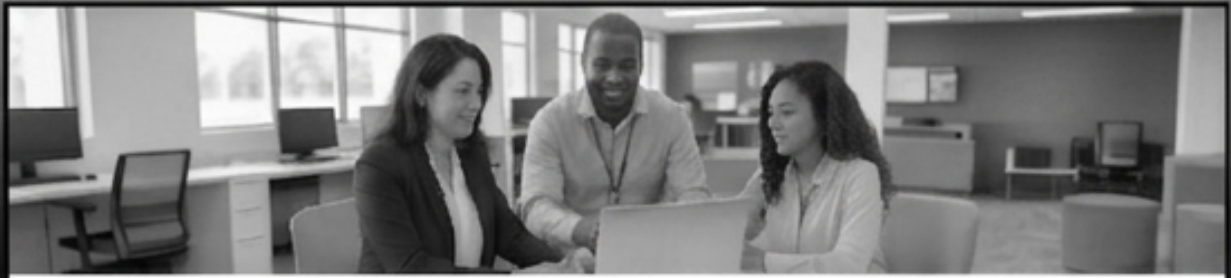


Mariachi Band

Before & After Coronation

Music by  
**DJ Rey**

email [mexicanmutualpageant@gmail.com](mailto:mexicanmutualpageant@gmail.com) for questions



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Tula Ramos, Youth Program Manager, es presentadora en la conferencia.

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**IMPULSANDO LAS EMPRESAS DEL CONDADO DE LORAIN.**  
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Tula Ramos, Youth Program Manager, is a presenter at the conference.

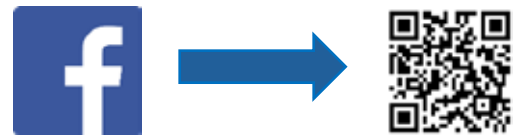


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The candidate that will  
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the Lorain County  
Commissioner's Office

**Brian will ensure transparency and accountability  
★★★ in government spending! ★★★**



Brian will be transparent on the dealings with the proposed Mega Site and Sewer Projects, ensuring the public will be included on discussions!

Brian will ensure all terms and conditions of the \$13.9 million Port Authority Loan will be honored and paid back to Lorain County

Brian will work tirelessly to ensure your hard earned tax dollars are spent wisely, transparently, and in the best interest of the County

**RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP. SMART SPENDING. STRONG COMMUNITY.**

Paid for by Friends of Brian Baker 1235 W 35<sup>th</sup> Street Lorain OH 44053

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PROUDLY SERVING OUR **LATINO COMMUNITY** AND LEADING IT AS 2026 PRESIDENT OF NAHREP

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*Dina Hernandez*  
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Your Resource Hub Is Here!



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Lorain (44055)



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**Lorain County Urban League**

We work to empower African Americans and underserved individuals to not just survive, but thrive, through a trifecta of direct service, collaborative efforts, and unyielding advocacy.

For more information call: (440) 323-3364



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For information on how to enroll:  
(440) 366-7674



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BY JORGE HERNÁNDEZ



*Congratulations C.H.I.P on your  
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Conference!*

*Tony Cillo, Lorain County Prosecutor*

*Friends of Tony Cillo*

  
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Community Foundation of  
LORAIN COUNTY



THE HISPANIC FUND  
LA FUNDACIÓN HISPANA



## PEOPLE WHO CARE CAUSES THAT MATTER

Founded in 1986 as the Community Foundation's first affiliate fund, the Hispanic Fund was established to honor the cultural and historical dimensions of philanthropy in our region. It is dedicated to expanding socioeconomic and educational opportunities within the Hispanic community and has reinvested nearly \$390,000 in grants and scholarships throughout Lorain County.

[peoplewhocare.org](http://peoplewhocare.org) | 440.984.7390 | [hf@peoplewhocare.org](mailto:hf@peoplewhocare.org)

# CONGRATULATIONS C.H.I.P.

Coalition For Hispanic/Latino Issues & Progress

*The Lorain County Sheriff's Office  
extends its congratulations to the  
Coalition for Hispanic/Latino  
Issues & Progress (CHIP) on 27  
years of impactful service and  
advocacy.*





Start W/Art



Community Art Life Matters

**FREE!**  
Art Workshop

1922 Hamilton Ave.  
11:00am - 1:00pm  
Ages: 7yrs on up

**JEFF PYE**  
440.315.2293

Start W/Art is a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization

**JOEL**  
**ARREDONDO**  
PRESIDENT OF LORAIN CITY COUNCIL  
*"Listen, Learn, Lead"*

*Re Elect*





**Lorain County  
Health & Dentistry**

**Accessibility is key to effective healthcare.**

Lorain County Health & Dentistry, dedicated to providing comprehensive, high-quality health care services that prioritize prevention across all aspects of health, including physical, behavioral, and dental care.

Lorain County Health & Dentistry operates six convenient locations in Lorain, Elyria, Oberlin, and North Ridgeville. We serve all ages, ensuring that every member of our community has access to the care they need, when they need it. Call us at 440-240-1655 for an appointment or more information.

We are proud to offer pharmacy services that enhance treatment continuity and access. Our pharmacies are located at our Middle Ave, Elyria and Broadway, Lorain locations and provide convenient and personalized access to medications. You can reach the Elyria pharmacy at 440-240-2121 or the Lorain pharmacy at 440-240-2122.

High quality care should be accessible to all, regardless of financial circumstances. Lorain County Health & Dentistry is here to be a trusted partner, breaking down barriers and fostering a healthier, more vibrant community. By focusing on preventative care and integrated services, we pave the way toward healthier futures for everyone.

Find more online at [lorainhealth-dentistry.org](http://lorainhealth-dentistry.org)

# VOTE FOR LORAIN SCHOOLS



Escanea el código QR para acceder a la información en español.

**ISSUE 5** is critical to **KEEP** good teachers, **IMPROVE** opportunities, and **PREPARE** all students for the future.

**IT'S UP TO US, LORAIN**

# ISSUE

# 5



Paid for by Citizens for Lorain Schools, 228 Delaware Avenue, Lorain, OH 44052

**VOTA POR LA LORAIN SCHOOLS**

**PROPUESTA 5**

*¡¡¡NUESTROS HIJOS LO VALEN!!!*

Pagado por los ciudadanos para las escuelas de Lorain 228 Delaware Avenue, Lorain, OH 44052




**Apply Now**  
**Deadline May 22**



**Step Into Leadership!**  
**Join the Class of 2027**

Applications are now open for the Leadership Lorain County  
 Signature Class of 2027



[leadershiploraincounty.com](http://leadershiploraincounty.com)

**Mission Statement: To provide quality early education and child care to children and families seeking a safe healthy educational environment.**

Free programs for qualifying families:  
Head Start, Ohio Expansion Grant, ODJFS Vouchers

- Affordable options for families: 2025-2026 rates  
Preschool with extended day options
- 5 days, 5+ hours each day all meals included- \$195/week
  - 5 days a week Preschool only 9am-Noon- \$436/month
  - 3 days a week Preschool only 9am-Noon- \$262/month
  - 2 days a week Preschool only 9am-Noon-\$168/month
  - Daily rate \$55 Hourly rate \$15

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- Summer Day Camp \$1950 for 10 week program. Includes all field trips, meals, and special events.

Registration fee : \$50  
Optional lunch for Preschool Only students \$3/day

To enroll call 440-282-1443 and make an appointment., schedule a tour, or request more information.  
Visit us online at [www.littlelighthouselearningcenter.org](http://www.littlelighthouselearningcenter.org)

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MICHAEL FEBBER  
AND MICHELE HENES  
**PARENT REPRESENTATIVE:**  
ASHLEY BOND  
**EX-OFFICIO:** PALMA STIPE AND  
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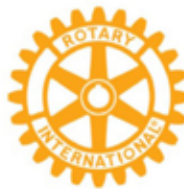
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*Pope Francis*

*Message for World Day of Migrants & Refugees, September 24, 2013*

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NOTES:

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# LORAIN CITY SCHOOLS

## DIGITAL ARTS STUDENT SUBMISSION Taught by Savannah Saliby



**Xiomeilee Sebastian**, This project was done for the CHIP contest that I participated in. The prompt was a series on hope, which recognizes the struggle and new hopes for families, mostly for families that have been relocated to different places. CHIP is an organization that recognizes and promotes awareness that takes place in the Hispanic/Latino community. This piece opened a new door for me to think about the actual struggles of real-life individuals, and for that reason, I am proud to present my art as a symbol of new beginnings.



**Niyah Jackson**, The landscape I chose for this project is a desert landscape, with a setting sun in the background and cacti placed around the landscape. I chose the desert because I was inspired by the Texas-Mexico border, where there is a lot of desert land. For the subject of my drawing, a girl is climbing through a broken fence with a determined look on her face. The broken and frayed chain-link fence represents the continued resistance of immigrants in the fight for their rights. I used a chain-link fence as an illusion to the literal chains many innocent people have been bound in at the border. The setting sun represents the near-end of the fight for immigrant's rights, and how we are steadily reaching our goal of equality. The girl is wearing a tank top with a butterfly print. I chose a butterfly because butterflies, specifically monarch butterflies, are an incredibly common symbol of immigration.



Favor Wright



Raelynn Brown