

## Newsletter, May 2017

### New CCF Staff

The Center for Children and Families recently welcomed two new staff members. Maria Maese joined CCF as the new program manager for the [Crece Conmigo \(Grow With Me\) program](#) in April. In her role, Maria will manage delivery of developmental screenings and referrals for at-risk children and help develop relationships with community agencies to deliver screenings and [Screening Fairs](#) in at-risk communities. Maria is a graduate of the [Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders](#) masters degree program at UT Dallas and has been working with the Center as a developmental specialist since August 2015.



Maria Maese



Diana Rodriguez

Since graduating from UT Dallas in December 2016, Diana Rodriguez has continued her work with CCF's [Juega Conmigo \(Play With Me\) program](#) on a part-time basis while working toward her master's degree in counseling. Diana leads *Juega Conmigo* classes at 5 program sites, facilitating playful-learning between the children and parents and modeling sensitive parent-child interactions. [Read More...](#)

### *Juega Conmigo* Summer Classes to Begin in June

We are now recruiting families for our Summer 2017 *Juega Conmigo* classes! The 10 week program will be offered in English and Spanish beginning June 1st and June 2nd at Prairie Creek Branch Library and Bachman Lake Branch Library. Contact Adriana Baird at 972-883-4827 for more information or [see here for more information](#).



### *Comenzando Bien* (Starting Off Right)

With support from the [Sigma Lambda Gamma](#) sorority, the [March of Dimes](#), and the Center for Children and Families, the [Comenzando Bien](#) (Starting Off Right) program, led by CCF intern Adriana Portillo, will be offered for 8 weeks this summer. The free, bilingual program is designed to educate women who are planning to get pregnant, are pregnant, or are new moms on topics regarding pregnancy, labor & birth, postpartum care, and newborn care. Free

childcare and giveaways will be provided for participants. [Read More...](#)

**When:** Thursdays, June 29th - August 17th, 10 am - 12 pm

**Where:** Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, 2200 18th Street, Plano, TX 75074

**To Register:** Contact Adriana Portillo at 972-804-6996 or [adrianaportillo125@gmail.com](mailto:adrianaportillo125@gmail.com) or [enter your information here](#).



**STARTING OFF RIGHT**  
Starting Off Right is a FREE 8-week program designed to educate women who are planning to get pregnant, are pregnant, or are new moms.

TOPICS INCLUDE:  
Pregnancy Labor & Birth Postpartum Care Newborn Care

FREE childcare & FREE giveaways

STARTING ON:  
June 29 - August 17  
(Every Thursday)  
10 am - 12 pm

LOCATED AT:  
Holy Nativity Episcopal Church  
2200 18th Street Drive  
Plano, TX 75074

For more information or to sign up contact:  
Adriana Portillo  
(972) 804-6996  
[adrianaportillo125@gmail.com](mailto:adrianaportillo125@gmail.com)

## Come Play With Me: A *Juega Conmigo* Family Celebration



On June 10th, the Center for Children and Families will be hosting our 3rd annual celebration for all the families who have participated in our *Juega Conmigo* (Play With Me) program. The theme of this year's celebration is literacy and will feature a book reading by local author, Patricia Vermillion, of her book, [Texas Chili? Oh My!](#) The event is free and open to the public. [Learn More...](#)

Thank you to our sponsors!



## Book Drive!

As part of our *Juega Conmigo* family celebration, we would like to send each family home with a copy of the [Texas Chili? Oh My!](#) book which will be presented by the author at the event. The book is available in English and Spanish.



### How you can help:

- Give a cash donation in person in [CRA 12.401](#) (UT Dallas) or at [giving.utdallas.edu/ccf](http://giving.utdallas.edu/ccf)
- Call 1-800-826-8911 to prepay with the publisher. Please reference UT Dallas and this event to receive the discounted price (\$13.17). Note that you are providing partial payment to our order and you will be charged only when the books are shipped.
- find limited copies available on Amazon ([English](#), [Spanish](#)) and Barnes & Noble ([English](#), [Spanish](#)). Ship to [our address](#).

Thank you for your support!

## From the Director

The month of May usually signals the end of the semester and the start of a slower summer but we are keeping the momentum going with our family celebration, series of *Juega Conmigo* classes, and support of the *Comenzando Bien* project. I'm proud of the team we've built to support these programs and welcome your participation. In addition, summertime is always a very active time in the child and family research programs of Center faculty. Come see us over the summer to learn more!



- Margaret T. Owen, Ph.D., Robinson Family Professor, Director, Center for Children and Families



## Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to all of our seniors graduating this Spring! Thank you for all of the time and effort that you have given to the Center! Whoosh!

STAY CONNECTED:



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