

# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2022 - 2023



C M L C  
CORVALLIS  
MULTICULTURAL  
LITERACY CENTER

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am honored to share these opening words with you, as they carry our collective voice and reveal the growth we witnessed this past year –an illusion of time, yet a short linear lapse that enabled us to reflect and express gratitude for our community; for the support we've shown one another, for our ability and eagerness to give and receive.

We welcome everyone at the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center, as we were all once welcomed into this living room of learning; to a class, by a language partner, sharing a story or home dish. We accompany each other in this present, which encapsulates the latest successions of intense social, political, and economic challenges, and understand once again that we are indeed much stronger together. We have learned to take the time to focus on each other so that we may move confidently in the direction of our dreams. Time is an illusion, yet timing is an art: let us continue to build the future we have collectively imagined.

Elena Valdés Chavarría  
CMLC Executive Director



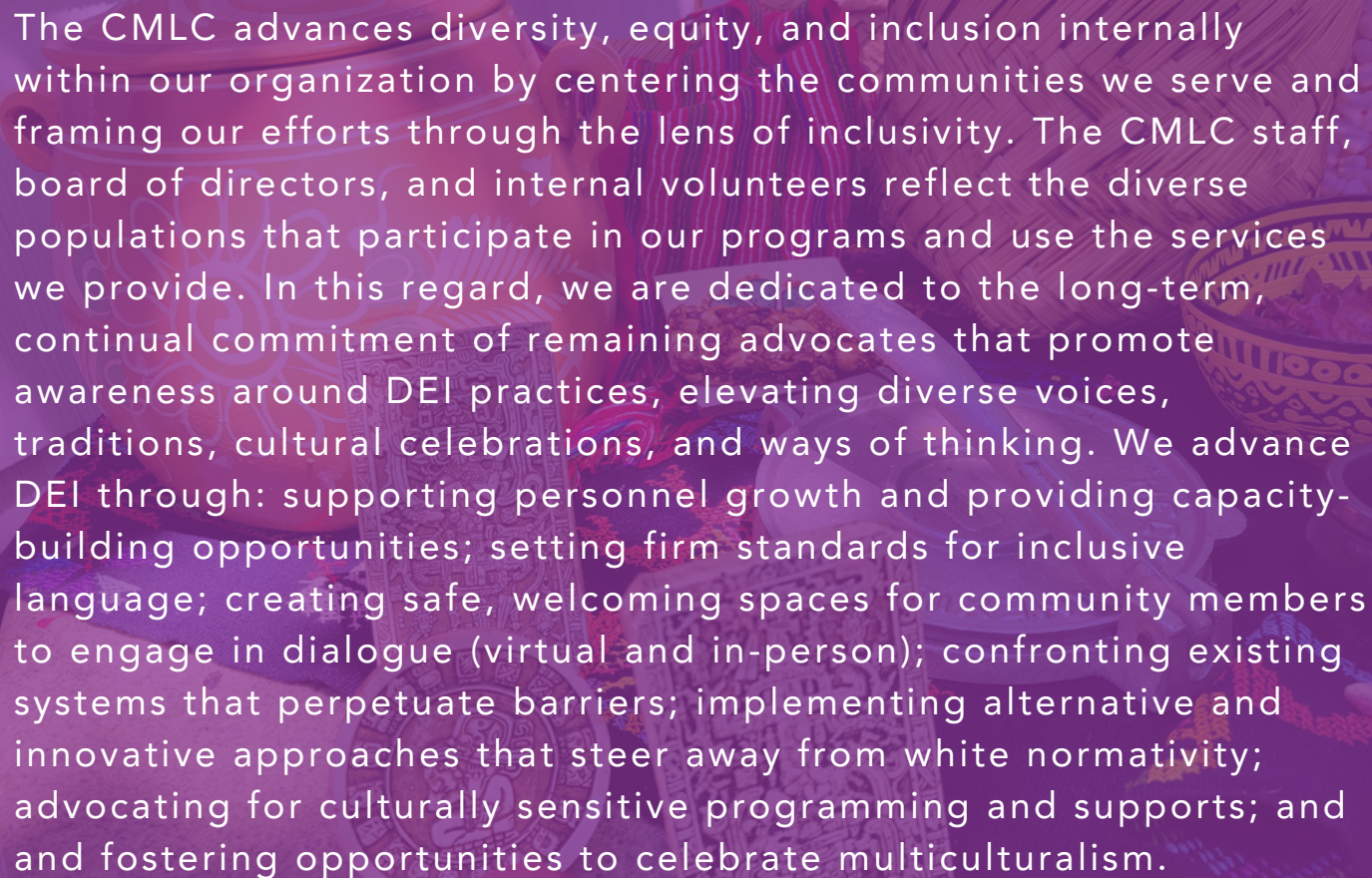
# OUR MISSION

Growing justice and belonging cross-culturally with international, immigrant, refugee, and intersecting communities.



## What we do

The Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center is dedicated to catering to the needs of immigrant, refugee, international, and multicultural communities in the central Willamette Valley. Our commitment to serving these populations has extended beyond regional boundaries, with our impact reaching even wider horizons. In the past year, we have expanded our reach to encompass the Oregon Coast, Eastern Oregon, and even individuals located overseas and in other states, all benefiting from our comprehensive Immigration Support services.



The CMLC advances diversity, equity, and inclusion internally within our organization by centering the communities we serve and framing our efforts through the lens of inclusivity. The CMLC staff, board of directors, and internal volunteers reflect the diverse populations that participate in our programs and use the services we provide. In this regard, we are dedicated to the long-term, continual commitment of remaining advocates that promote awareness around DEI practices, elevating diverse voices, traditions, cultural celebrations, and ways of thinking. We advance DEI through: supporting personnel growth and providing capacity-building opportunities; setting firm standards for inclusive language; creating safe, welcoming spaces for community members to engage in dialogue (virtual and in-person); confronting existing systems that perpetuate barriers; implementing alternative and innovative approaches that steer away from white normativity; advocating for culturally sensitive programming and supports; and and fostering opportunities to celebrate multiculturalism.

At CMLC, our community is the foundation of who we are and the driving force behind our growth. This past year has been a remarkable journey, marked by the addition of more staff, core coordinators, event volunteers, teachers, classes, subjects, and community resources. We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support and influence of our community, whose needs and passions inspire and shape our trajectory. Our class and program participation, program expansion, and CMLC team personnel have reached unprecedented heights. As we continue to evolve, we invite you to stay tuned for exciting developments, including our upcoming endowment campaign, aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of CMLC as a dedicated DEI community space.



# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



**\$158,647**

Received  
From Grants



**\$58,591**

Donations  
From the  
Public



**\$50,750**

Received  
From  
Affiliated  
Organizations

Grantors in the 2022-2023 fiscal year: Benton Community Cultural Coalition, Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance, Oregon Cultural Trust, Oregon Association of Education Service Districts, United Way, OSU Folk Club Thrift Store, and Oregon Humanities.

We are grateful to our wonderful community for supporting us and our programs. This support was gathered through donations, fundraisers, and program contributions. Their generosity and dedication have allowed us to expand our reach and make a positive impact in the lives of even more individuals. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant community where everyone can thrive.

Our affiliated organizations, Oregon State University and the Community Services Consortium, play a crucial role in our mission. Beyond broadening our reach, their collaboration has provided invaluable resources, expertise, and a network of connections that enhance the depth and effectiveness of our initiatives. We express our gratitude for their ongoing commitment to our shared vision, amplifying our efforts to uplift and serve our community.



# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



**\$107,592**

Community  
Education  
Programs

The CMLC offers a plethora of programs and services for all of the Corvallis community throughout the year. These include but are not limited to: language learning, multi-age art classes, pathways to citizenship and legal residency, heritage practice, cooking, and more! We operate on a sliding scale to ensure that everyone has access to these programs.



**\$19,460**

Pathway to  
Legal  
Residency  
Services

We offer free citizenship and naturalization support including help understanding the application for naturalization, tutoring for the naturalization civics test and more. Overall we have helped 70+ people get citizenship. We also help people find pathways for legal residency as well. This year we have served 106 people from 23 different countries.

In addition to our many services, the CMLC also awards financial aid to those undertaking the process of getting their citizenship or for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients. In the 22-23 year we awarded 5 DACA Scholarships and 3 naturalization processing fee loans.





# PROGRAM AREAS

- English Language learning
- Safe Space Cultural Events
- Multi-lingual, Multicultural Youth, Adult, and Family Art and Community Classes
- Community Conversation Partner Program
- Immigration and Legal Residency Counsel
- Citizenship Test, Tutorship and No-Interest Loan Program
- DACA Application Support and Scholarship
- Workplace and U.S Job Culture Training for Immigrants and Refugees
- Culturally Responsive Resource Navigation



# CLASS REGISTRATIONS



401

Total Class Registrations



272

Individual Students



148

New to CMLC in 2022-2023

## Summer

# of Class Registrations: 106  
Individual Students: 78  
New to CMLC in Summer: 26 new participants, 33% of total participants

## Fall

# of Class Registrations: 99  
Individual Students: 87  
New to CMLC in Fall: 55 new participants, 56% of total participants

## Winter

# of Class Registrations: 93  
Individual Students: 87  
New to CMLC in Winter: 48 new participants, 52% of total participants

## Spring

# of Class Registrations: 103  
Individual Students: 86  
New to CMLC in Spring: 48 new participants, 46% of total participants



# OUR STUDENTS



39

Languages Spoken

Languages spoken at the center and in the homes of CMLC community members: Albanian, Arabic, Burmese, Czech, Dari, English, Farsi, French, German, Guarani, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kisii, Korean, Kurdish, Kyrgyz, Malayalam, Mam, Mandarin, Nepalese, Pangasinan, Pashto, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Yoruba.



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Countries of Origin

Countries of origin include: USA, South Korea, México, Ecuador, Turkey, Korea, Chile, Taiwan, Afghanistan, Iran, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Japan, Nepal, Poland, Palestine, Puerto Rico, Thailand, Ukraine, Alaskan, Australia, and Canada.



# CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

CMLC offers a diverse range of workshop classes, catering to various interests and age groups. Among these classes, we provide engaging art workshops that encompass a wide array of skills, including painting techniques, paper mache, and clay and pottery. These classes serve as platforms for students to explore their creativity and learn various artistic expressions.

In addition to art workshops, we offer captivating culinary courses that delve into the world of cooking from different countries and cultures. Through these courses, students have the opportunity to enhance their culinary skills while also gaining insights into diverse culinary traditions. These workshops provide a cultural immersion experience, fostering an appreciation for the rich flavors and traditions that shape cuisines around the world.



REGISTER NOW!  
CLASS STARTS SOON!

PAPER MACHE  
**ANIMAL  
PUPPETS**

A colorful poster for a paper mache animal puppets workshop. It features a vibrant, multi-colored bear puppet with yellow, blue, and pink patches. The background is a bright, abstract pattern of orange and green circles.



**CLAY SEA  
CREATURES**

A poster for a clay sea creatures workshop. It shows several colorful, hand-painted clay sea creatures, including a blue and yellow fish and a red and white octopus. The background is a light blue and white pattern.



REGISTER NOW!

**WATERCOLOR  
AND INK PEN**

LEARN THROUGH  
DRAW. EACH DAY  
CREATES FROM  
DRAW AND LEARN  
WITH CLAY!  
WITH FIRED,  
SCULPTURES.

THURSDAY  
M-11:30AM  
AUGUST 3RD

A poster for a watercolor and ink pen workshop. It features a palette of watercolor paints in various colors and a brush. The background is a light blue and white pattern.



Register Now!

**CHILEAN  
PASTRY  
BAKING**

Prepare favorite pastries from Chile and learn to apply the baking techniques to future cakes, desserts and breads!

Class begins July 12  
Wednesday, 12:00pm - 1:30 pm  
Taught by Carolina Correa

A poster for a Chilean pastry baking workshop. It features a variety of pastries, including a large braided bread, a small round pastry, and a round pastry with red jam. The background is a light brown and white pattern.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Our most developed courses are our English classes. Those who wish to enroll must first take a placement exam. This is to ensure that everyone gets put into the appropriate level class. Classes are kept small so that students can maximize their learning. Currently we offer:

- Beginner English Class
- Advanced Beginner English Class
- Intermediate English Class

These courses are taught by our wonderful and highly qualified ESL teachers, who go above and beyond mere language instruction. They foster a warm and inclusive community among our students, where connections are formed and a sense of belonging thrives. This is further supplemented by our English conversation circles, where students get together to practice their English in a more casual and fun setting.

## Summer Schedule



Monday, 10:30 am	Watercolor and Ink Pen for Adults
Tuesdays 10:00 am	Clay Sea Creatures
Tuesdays, 10:00 am	Beginning English Class
Tuesdays, 1:30 pm	English Conversation Circle

## CMLC Spring Classes



English Conversation Circle	Mondays	5:35 pm to 6:35 pm	Starting April 10th
English Conversation Circle	Tuesdays	3:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Starting April 11th
Advanced Beginner English	Wednesdays	12:00 am to 12:30 am	Starting April 12th
Beginning English Class	Thursdays	10:30 am to 12:00 pm	Starting April 13th

### CMLC FALL CLASSES

- Mindfulness Meditation for Stress-reduction (Adults)  
Oct 5 - Dec 7
- Conversation Circle in Spanish (Adults)  
Sep 20 - 22 Nov
- Watercolor (Adults)  
Sep 20 - 22 Nov
- Pottery Class (All ages, 7+)  
Nov 1 to 29
- Conversation Circle in English (Adults)  
Sep 21 - Nov 9

# CONVERSATION PARTNERS



44

Partners  
Matched

The Conversation Partner Program is a unique opportunity for members of our international community to practice speaking with a member of our local community in an informal, unintimidating, and friendly setting. Each set of partners decides what they want to talk about and how often to meet. Once paired, they meet regularly to speak English, learn about each other's cultures, and maybe even explore the community.



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Maternal  
Languages  
Spoken

Languages spoken by this year's conversation partners include: Korean (9), Arabic (5), Spanish (5), Chinese (Mandarin) (3), Chinese (Unspecified) (3), Turkish (3), Persian (3), French (2), Japanese (2), Portuguese (2), Ukrainian (2), Kurdish (1), Nepalese (1), Yoruba (1), Russian (1), Thai (1), and Burmese (1), Vietnamese (1).



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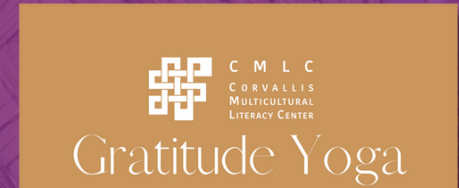
Countries  
of Origin

The countries represented in our program include South Korea (9), Taiwan (4), Turkey (4), Colombia (2), Japan (2), Brazil (2), Iran (2), Ukraine (2), China (1), Qatar (1), Saudi Arabia (1), Paraguay (1), France (1), Costa Rica (1), Tunisia (1), Yemen (1), Nepal (1), Nigeria (1), Thailand (1), Myanmar (1), Vietnam (1), Ecuador (1), and Unreported (2).



# HEALTH AND SELF CARE

We strongly believe in the significance of holistic well-being for leading a fulfilled life. Particularly when adjusting to a new life in a different country, managing high levels of stress becomes crucial. To support individuals facing these challenges, we offer a variety of classes aimed at addressing these struggles. Our Manejando el Estrés class, taught in Spanish, provides valuable strategies for effectively managing stress and navigating through life's challenges. Similarly, our Mindfulness Meditation class offers techniques to promote relaxation and reduce stress. Additionally, we have introduced a Gratitude Yoga class as a gesture of appreciation for our hardworking community members.



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## Gratitude Yoga



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**PRACTICE MEDITATION AND LEARN SOME TECHNIQUES TO PREVENT STRESS, IN A WELCOMING COMMUNITY**

- ◆ **Manejando el Estrés**  
Tuesdays, 7 pm to 8 pm  
4/10 to 6/6, On Zoom  
Taught in **Spanish** by Monica Olvera
- ◆ **Mindfulness Meditation**  
Thursdays, 3 pm to 4:30pm  
4/13 to 6/1, in Person  
Taught in **English** by Susanna Cohen

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

# EL SECRETO DE LA BAMBA

The legacy of “El Secreto de La Bamba” was revealed through the opportunity to find alternative means of expression; to learn, share, and celebrate the diverse multicultural identities of the Corvallis School District.

This joint effort focused on working with 5th grade students from Lincoln Elementary, offering 40 teaching hours over the course of five months, to learn about the meaning of action, space, force, time, pulse, shape and energy involved in “La Bamba.” The CMLC partnered with Maestra María Ortiz, Elena Chavarría and Naomi Hartman to make this experience an unforgettable event for students and families, and to ignite a sense of wonder for further exploration and expression among participants. This *Son Jarocho*, the underlying musical genre, is a historic testimony of México’s roots and history in the pursuit of racial justice.





# EL SECRETO DE LA BAMBA

La Bamba, taught under its frame of World Cultural Heritage, was part of the Multicultural Festival, an event that involved all other Lincoln Elementary students in international performances, guided by the mentorship of culturally diverse teachers and parents.

*El Secreto de La Bamba* is that we all share the same rhythm that makes our hearts beat together.

[Click here](#) if you would like to watch their beautiful performance!



# MUNDUS IMAGINALIS

Nine children in Corvallis with a diverse ethnic background found each other at the CMLC. Sharing a vision of multicultural literacy, they participated in a 10-day-long art class called Mundus Imaginalis, an opportunity for collective expression through muralism. Children were enthusiastic when instructed to imagine a world that does not yet exist, and they could help create. The work of art they produced is entitled The Galaxy of Possibilities. Interestingly, they did not want to imagine a different world, rather, they wanted to see the uniqueness of ours within the vastness of the universe.

Through this journey, the young participants began operating in the psychological realm of the imaginal, a place connected to their subconscious that lies between the mind and the material world of matter. According to Jungian theory, Mundus Imaginalis is a real place of undeniable truth that can be entered through imagination.





The motivation behind this art class was to value a process of becoming (transformation) rather than being (conformation) and to move from individual towards collective artistic expression. Adding layer over layer of images and color, the constant evolution on the canvas sat a foundation for creating a visual representation of what they understand and imagine to be equality, self-determination, children's rights, and social justice.

The next stage of Mundus Imaginalis consists of a travelling exhibit where The Galaxy of Possibilities will ignite inspiration among other groups of children who in turn will create their own possibilities.



# CITIZENSHIP TUTORING



14

People who Received Support

For over a decade, the CMLC Citizenship Program has been an invaluable resource, providing free support and guidance to individuals on their path to citizenship. Our dedicated efforts have resulted in the successful completion of the citizenship process for over 70 people since the program began. Through rigorous training and collaboration with USCIS trainers and community partners, our volunteers are equipped to offer comprehensive guidance, application support, and interview preparation tailored to each applicant's unique circumstances.



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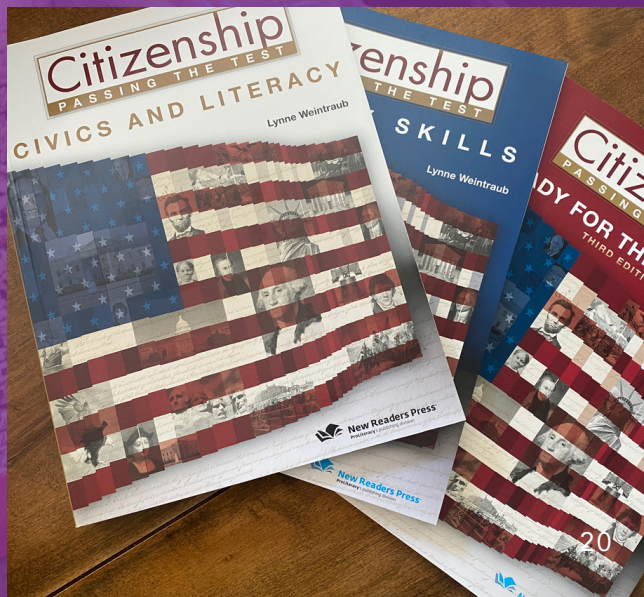
Recieved Tutoring for Citizenship interview

At CMLC, we understand that the journey to citizenship is not just a legal process but a deeply personal and transformative experience. In addition to practical assistance, we foster a nurturing environment, empowering applicants with knowledge, confidence, and a supportive community. Through workshops, resources, and unwavering support, we empower individuals to embark on this life-changing path, ensuring that the citizenship process is accessible, comprehensible, and a cause for celebration. Our goal is to make the journey to citizenship a meaningful and transformative experience for all who seek it.



7

Successfully Gained Citizenship



# OUR VOLUNTEERS



20

Front Desk  
Volunteers

Our front desk volunteers are the first people that someone sees when they walk into the CMLC. Their support is crucial to keeping the day to day needs of the center running efficiently. Their friendly smiles and demeanors help us make the center feel like a place of belonging



85

Event and  
Activity  
Volunteers

These volunteers help us execute all of our community events including: Ritmos y Sonos del Corazón, International Bazaars, Cooking Experiences, Thanksgiving Around the World, Dia de los Muertos, and our International Potluck and Movie Nights. We enjoy showing our appreciation to all of our CMLC family by having a yearly Volunteer Appreciation Event.



44

New  
Volunteers

This year we are happy to have 44 new volunteers. It is our hope that as we grow, so do our connections to the community. We hope to have an even larger volunteer base in the near future.



# FUNDRAISING

The Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center has hosted enriching fundraising events, each with a unique cultural flair. From captivating global bazaars like Winter and Spring International Bazaars, to celebrating LGBTQ+ diversity with the Pride Tamales event, and uniting through dance and social bonding with Ritmos Y Sonos del Corazon, these events fostered cultural appreciation and community engagement while raising vital funds. Your generous support through our website directly impacts lives, enabling us to expand essential resources, language classes, citizenship support, and cultural workshops. Join our dynamic Fundraising Committee to shape impactful events and foster cultural understanding. Together, we can amplify our mission and make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Join us on this exciting journey of empowerment and celebration of diversity! To learn more or express your interest, visit [Cmlcenter.org](http://Cmlcenter.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



# PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES

## Alliances

Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance  
Growing Ancestral Roots  
Corvallis School District  
Oregon State University  
Community Services Consortium  
The Arts Center  
International Moms Group  
DevNW  
Habitat for Humanity

## Partnerships

Math: From School to Home [Informational sessions for families]  
Lincoln Elementary School - ¡La Bamba!  
Partnered project  
Math: From School to Home  
Open Streets Corvallis  
Corvallis Community Center  
Corvallis-Benton Public Library  
Immigration Counseling Services  
Determined Art Movement  
Casa Latinos Unidos  
Interfaith Immigration Support Network  
Albany Public Library  
Corvallis for Refugees  
Here to Stay OSU  
United Way  
Community Services Consortium  
Home Opportunity Planning and Equity  
Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center  
Oregon State University  
Dreaming Beyond Borders OSU  
INTO OSU

# CLOSING REMARKS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have made this year a success. From our dedicated volunteers and passionate team members to our generous supporters and engaged community, your contributions have been the driving force behind our accomplishments. As we reflect on our journey over the past year, we are inspired by the progress we've made and the lives we've touched. Looking ahead, we are filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the future. With your continued support, we are confident that we will build upon our achievements, embrace new opportunities, and create an even more inclusive and empowering community. Thank you for being an integral part of our story, and here's to the journey ahead, united in our commitment to diversity, empowerment, and positive change.