



The Con Mi MADRE program began originally as the Hispanic-Mother Daughter Program in November 1992 through the efforts of The Junior League of Austin and The University of Texas at Austin. Con Mi MADRE strives to facilitate the academic and personal success of Hispanic girls by providing various educational and supportive services using a relational holistic family systems approach model. The primary mission of Con Mi MADRE is to decrease the drop rate of Hispanic students in middle and high school, encourage parent involvement and increase postsecondary enrollments by providing career and college readiness educational opportunities.

Con Mi MADRE serves 6th-12th grade girls at the following target schools in the Austin Independent School District: Ann Richards, Bailey, Bedichek, Covington, Fulmore, Martin, Mendez, O.Henry, Paredes, Small, and Webb middle schools; Akins, Austin, Bowie, Crockett, LASA, LBJ, Reagan, and Travis high schools. Girls are actively recruited in the 5th grade through recommendations from their elementary school counselors and teachers. All services provided by Con Mi MADRE are free to participants because of the generous support of program funders.

Program services for students and their mothers include:

Fall/Spring College and Career Readiness Workshops for Mothers and Daughters

Con Mi MADRE conferences are held on Saturdays at The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work. Two conferences are held each semester, and are 3 hours in length. Topics center on different issues facing middle school and high school students (i.e. self-esteem, peer pressure, goal setting, college preparation, financial aid).

School-Based Campus Meetings

In collaboration with the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin and the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences at St. Edward's University, Con Mi MADRE conducts psychosocial educational groups on a bi-weekly basis at all target schools using approved curriculum. These meetings are held during the school day at each campus and last about 45 minutes. Meeting topics correlate with conference topics or address issues identified through participant assessments.

Individual and Family Case Management Services

Case management and counseling services are provided for girls who are facing academic or personal challenges that are affecting their ability to learn. This service is provided by qualified Con Mi MADRE staff and graduate-level social work interns.

Parent/Family Engagement Evening Series

Con Mi Madre is based upon the premise that a student's education is enhanced by parental involvement. Strong connections between home, school, and community effectively reduce barriers to student achievement. During the summer, parent participants attend workshops on topics related to education and parent engagement. These sessions also provide opportunities for parents within the program to connect and interact.

Mentoring

Con Mi MADRE assures that program participants needing additional support are assigned to a caring adult who can provide guidance and encouragement when unforeseen circumstance limit parent involvement. Con Mi MADRE coordinates mentor-student activities every month.

Academic Support

Tutoring, provided by the VICTORY tutorial program, is available for girls who need help with particular subjects. This service is available at no cost, and multiple locations are available.

College Exploration

Summer college exploration visits help program participants transition from their neighborhood high schools to the colleges of their dreams. Each summer, the program takes a group of active girls and moms to colleges in different parts of the state. Incoming 12th graders attend college academies in the summer on the college entrance process.

Leadership Training Conference

Con Mi MADRE offers active participants the chance to build leadership skills through a special conference. This chaperoned activity is held on the UT-Austin campus, with students spending 1-2 nights at Jester dormitory. Participation in the leadership conference is for students that are in good standing with the program and is by special invitation only.

Healthy Living Program

The purpose of the Healthy Living Program is to engage program participants in physical exercise and improve dietary habits. This program will promote health, well-being, and good eating habits. Participants release stress, facilitating their ability to concentrate on school work. The Healthy Living Program exposes mothers and daughters to the importance of exercise and good nutrition year-round through campus meetings, summer camp, and other physical activities.

Service Learning Opportunities

Con Mi Madre strives to instill the importance of community service by requiring all program participants to complete service learning hours. Each year, middle school mother-daughter teams must complete 15 hours of service and high school mother-daughter teams must complete 20 hours of service to remain eligible for the program. Con Mi MADRE's office assists teams in finding volunteer opportunities

Financial Assistance

Benefits of participating in the program extend beyond the growth and development that occurs through campus meetings and conferences. Active participants in Con Mi MADRE can receive financial assistance during their junior and senior years of high school to cover SAT/ACT testing fees and college application fees. As a final incentive for participating in Con Mi MADRE, seniors who have been active in the program since their induction are eligible for a scholarship. Each year, graduating seniors receive thousands of dollars in scholarships.

PROGRAM STAFF

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