



Digital Literacy Spring Cohort

Northwest Center invites community members interested in learning computer literacy skills to our Spring session cohort. The Digital Literacy program offers a comprehensive curriculum covering fundamental computer operations, internet research, email etiquette, online security, and more. As we transition from individual consultations to group workshops, participants can develop their digital proficiency, connect with peers, and boost their confidence in a supportive environment.

"We previously trialed group sessions, and they were very successful," Digital Literacy Program Manager Reyna Rodriguez said. "The best part was watching participants teach each other. They didn't hesitate to help other participants. It made us feel so good to witness their improvements and also their ability to support the Digital Literacy Coaches in the class."

Participants can apply skills learned in this class in their career and personal lives.

"We've had a lot of people take the class because they want to become independent tech-wise, so they don't have to rely on other people to support them," Rodriguez said. "Some have come back to tell us they now have the ability to pay their bills online, which has created a sense of independence and boosted their self-esteem." Others have used their skills within their personal businesses, supporting themselves by taking inventory, managing invoices, or organizing client contacts. Parents also have expressed how grateful they are that they can now support their child while doing homework, online research, and communicating digitally with teachers."

The program's success is further demonstrated by participants progressing into coaching positions within the Digital Literacy Program.

"We are grateful to share the success story of how most coaches were basics or novice computer users themselves but are now teaching others," Rodriguez said. "They know what it's like to be in that position and are prepared to accommodate beginners; beginning with familiarizing participants with the computer itself, we will start from ground zero."

For those interested in enrolling in the upcoming Digital Literacy course or joining the waitlist, please contact Digital Literacy Manager Reyna Rodriguez at rrodriguez@northwestcenterchicago.org or call 708-541-2879.



Highlighting National Minority Health Month

Northwest Center serves a primarily Latine community, offering programs such as Women Forward, Ready, Set, Live!, housing counseling, and financial counseling. These programs are designed to help build financial independence within families and create a safe space for setting goals and building confidence.

We acknowledge April as National Minority Health Month by highlighting how financial education affects physical health. To learn more about our financial education services, visit our website at northwestcenterchicago.org.

Stress Impact

Constant worry about money, debt, or financial stability can lead to increased stress levels, which in turn can contribute to various health issues.

Access to Healthcare

Financial stability often determines access to quality healthcare services. Individuals with better financial health are more likely to afford health insurance, medical treatments, preventive care, and healthier lifestyle.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices

Financial well-being can influence the ability to afford nutritious food, gym memberships, fitness classes, and other resources that support a healthy lifestyle.

Mental Health

Financial struggles can take a toll on mental health, leading to conditions such as anxiety and depression. Poor mental health can, in turn, affect physical health outcomes.

Long-Term Planning

Financial health is crucial for long-term planning, including retirement savings, emergency funds, and healthcare expenses. Planning for future financial stability can alleviate stress and promote better physical health by reducing financial uncertainties.

Employee Spotlight



"It's rewarding to contribute to a place that benefits families like mine."

Claudia Bravo Finance Manager

Finance Manager Claudia Bravo joined Northwest Center as a Rapid Response contractor in 2022, where she initially supported the Health Equity team during the COVID-19 pandemic with essential tasks such as vaccine outreach, door-to-door education, and distributing PPE materials. Once vaccine outreach work came to an end, Bravo seized an opportunity to transition into a permanent position within the organization.

Reflecting on her journey, Bravo shared, "The former Executive Director highlighted that many Northwest Center staff members had previously served as contractors. When I learned about the opening in the finance department, I saw it as a chance to leverage my bookkeeping expertise and pursue a new challenge. Transitioning from the private sector to a full-time role in the non-profit realm presented some challenges, but I was eager to learn more and have a meaningful impact."

Embracing her role at the non-profit organization, Bravo envisioned a new path for herself. "Working at a non-profit is satisfying, as it allows me to positively influence people's lives," Bravo said. "Northwest Center's mission resonates with me personally, as they work with one of the organizations that once supported my immigration journey when I arrived in Chicago from Mexico. It's rewarding to contribute to a place that benefits families like mine."

Throughout her time as Finance Manager over the past two years, Bravo has actively pursued professional growth opportunities provided by the organization.

"I took an online course last year that was a transformative experience for me," Bravo said. "It shed light on the common challenges faced by non-profits, emphasizing the importance of efficient processes, meeting deadlines, and maintaining healthy cash flow to drive impactful outcomes and sustain organizational success."

Bravo plays a pivotal role in overseeing various financial functions within the Operations and Finance team.

Bravo explained, "My responsibilities include monitoring account balances, ensuring timely payments to staff, vendors, and contractors, and managing reimbursements." She highlighted her integral contributions to the organization's financial operations.



Northwest Center attends Sustainability Summit

Northwest Center and community agencies joined to create a collective “toolbox” to promote the My Chi My Future work and build continued support. In these conversations, we want to understand which agencies want or plan to continue this work if they can sustain the programs financially. The collective involvement of community leadership teams is critical to moving these conversations forward.

“The Summit gave me a great opportunity to network with my fellow anchor organizations,” My City My Youth Manager Yuan Moreno said. “The Summit provided many resources, collaboration opportunities, and knowledge on how to share our story here at NWC.”

Let's Celebrate!

Northwest Center is thrilled to highlight the staff anniversaries and birthdays within the organization that occurred throughout April.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Roxana Pereira: Mon, Apr 15 (5 years)

BIRTHDAYS

Edwin Pinto: Tue, Apr 16

Isidra Vazquez: Sat, Apr 20

Carmen Landecho: Mon, Apr 29



Upcoming Events

For more information on events, visit our website at www.northwestcenterchicago.org/events



Taller sobre robo de identidad, fraude y estafas

Parent University*

En Español

Abril 15

5-6pm



Thriving from the Ground Up: A Summit to Advance Healthy Housing

Riis Park District - Fieldhouse

Gimnasio, Puerta 12

6100 W Fullerton

May 18 | 1:30-5pm



Clases gratuitas de educación para la salud Parent University*

En Español

16 y 17 de abril | 12-2pm

23 de abril | 12-2pm

30 de abril | 12-2pm



Taller Finanzas 101

Parent University*

Mayo 3

10-11:30 am