

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

There is great joy in being a part of life transformation, but it is also hard work. It's probably why I always feel this strange mixture of sadness and relief when we come to the end of a semester here at Roosevelt Park Ministries. I miss our instructors, interns, and students who, this Spring, came from 11 different countries. Some of them may never be back.



Some of the 150 RPM students, staff, and volunteers from last semester.

They bring variety, excitement, and joy to our days. While classes are in session the activity level is intense. Our days often run from 8 am - 8 pm (or later). It's both fulfilling and exhausting, so when we break for the summer, it's feels good to anticipate a less hectic pace. But it's so quiet.

We intentionally celebrate our students, instructors, volunteers, and interns at the end of each semester. So, once again this Spring, we organized events for both the morning and evening ESL, SSL, and Computer students. It's fun to gather around the tables with activities, lots of food, various beverages, and fresh coffee (thanks Starbucks!). The conversation is a swirl of English and Spanish, and often a mixture of both, sprinkled with laughter that needs no translation.



The night of our closing event I took an informal poll. "How many of you were up before 6 am this morning?" I asked. All the hands went up. "How many were up before 5 am?" - most of the hands stayed up. "Before 4 am?" A third of the hands stayed up. "Before 3:30 am?" Guadalupe's hand remained raised.

I looked at this young mother with her adorable two-year old daughter, and I didn't know what to say.

She'd been up since 3:30 am. She got her daughter and herself ready, dropped off her toddler with her childcare provider and went to work. Then, every Tuesday and Thursday evening she was here at 6 pm, with her daughter (we have free childcare), so she could learn English and make a better life for the two of them. My eyes just filled again thinking about them.

Urgent Child Care Need

Which reminds me - in order to continue our free childcare so working moms and dads with small children can come to class, we need to find and train a new Child Care worker before we start in September. This can be a part-time paid or volunteer position and requires availability Monday - Thursday. The only other requirement is that you love children and are able to create a fun, safe, and stable place for them to be for 1.5 hours while their parents are in class. We have a room with toys and books and video capability, but we need someone to be that loving, consistent presence in their lives two to four days a week. *If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please call [616-475-5881] or email our office [info@rpmins.org] and we'll get you more information.*



So, thank you. Thank you for caring about Guadalupe, her precious daughter Maria, **and the over 200 people we've served so far this year.** Many came multiple times per week, so we had over 1500 people come through our doors from January - May. Your support, in whatever way you've provided it, makes our work possible. Together, we are making better lives and better futures possible, for little Maria, and everyone God brings our way.

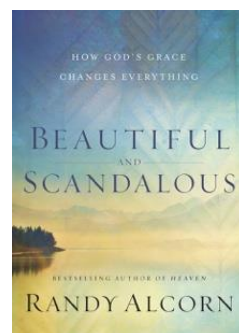
Grateful to serve with you and for you,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Joel".

Joel B Groat, Exec. Dir.

P.S. FREE BOOK OFFER.

I'd love to add 25 more monthly supporters by September 20, 2024 - just before everyone comes back for our Fall semester. This will help us add some much-needed staff support for our students. So, for everyone who **donates a monthly gift of any amount to RPM**, I'll send you a free copy of this encouraging and inspiring devotional book by Randy Alcorn. (Yes, even if you just donate \$5 per month I'll send you the book.)



Please use the enclosed card and make sure and include your mailing address when you make your pledge or donation so I can mail your book right away.



You can also use your phone to scan this QR code. It will take you to our [Donate](#) page where you can designate a monthly donation or give a one-time amount. If you click the monthly box, we'll send you the book. ¡Muchas gracias!

*Roosevelt Park Ministries is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 38-3305940
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