

AURORA COMMUNITY CONNECTION Family Resource Center *Sharing Strengths, Enriching Lives, Building Community*

MISSION

Create and sustain a Family Resource Center in Aurora, Colorado in order to develop the capacities of under-served families in the community and increase their access to resources.

VISION

Emphasize the experiences of individuals and families to heighten community and individual awareness of their capabilities; diminish low self-esteem, dependency and inequalities among all families in Aurora.

The Aurora Community Connection (ACC) is the most recent addition to the Family Resource Center Association, which supports 24 centers throughout the state of Colorado. The goal of the ACC is to develop programs that are relevant to the growing Spanish-speaking community in Aurora, while also supporting the interests and needs of long-time residents. Through collaboration with other community organizations and stakeholders, ACC intends to supplement existing programming in the Aurora community and build new program areas in order to address gaps in services.

"We don't want to focus on being an emergency services center. We want to tap into the capacities of our families to build strong foundations."

Dr. Robin Waterman is the Interim Executive Director of ACC. She holds a Doctorate in Education from Harvard University and has years of experience in establishing and directing community-based education programs. The ACC is funded by grants and donations to support the operation and programming of the center.

The Aurora Community Connection will support the following programs:

- Parenting Support and Early Childhood Education
 - Parenting classes
 - Parents as Teachers (PAT) Program
 - Parent leadership development

- Adult Education
 - Informational workshops
 - Basic computer classes
 - ESL (English as a Second Language)

- Free Legal Assistance Clinics
 - Immigration Law
 - Family Law
 - Employment Law
- Youth Programming
 - After-school and summer activities
 - College Resource Fair
 - Service-learning opportunities
- Resource and Referral Services
 - Health Resource information
 - Health Advocacy
 - Community resources information

"We hope to draw on existing resources in the community to appropriately utilize what other organizations have already created."

The Aurora Community Connection will partner with numerous community organizations in order to increase services in Aurora. The following are some examples of the partners with which ACC is collaborating:

- Aurora Public Schools – parenting classes; educational workshops for parents; after-school and summer programs for youth; College Resource Fair.
- Aurora Mental Health – parenting classes.
- Early Childhood Council of Arapahoe County – Parents as Teachers program.
- Catholic Charities – free legal consult related to immigration laws.
- CSU, Arapahoe County Extension & Aurora Housing Authority – after school programs for elementary and middle school youth.
- Migrant Education Program – workshops for families i.e., graduating from high school and financing a college education.
- Original Aurora Renewal – resource and referral information.

For more information on services, volunteer opportunities, and financial donations, please contact Dr. Waterman at Robin.Waterman@AuroraCommunityConnection.com.