



# WESTERN AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER

## *Quarterly Newsletter*

December 2025

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Welcome Our New Staff Members! Western Avenue Community Center is excited to welcome several new team members who bring fresh energy, passion, and expertise to our organization.

#### **Michell Cervantes - Executive Director**

We are thrilled to have Michelle leading our team. She brings strong leadership experience, a deep commitment to community service, and a vision for expanding programs and strengthening our impact.

#### **Michael Wheeler - Youth Athletic Coordinator**

Michael joins us with a strong background in youth sports and mentoring. He will be overseeing athletic programming, building new opportunities for young athletes, and fostering a positive, inclusive environment for all.

#### **Zahkyria Walker-Basketball Coach**

Zakariya is stepping into the role of Basketball Coach with enthusiasm and skill. Her dedication to youth development will be a tremendous asset to our basketball program.

#### **Adrea Cavazos - Front Office Coordinator**

Adrea is the new friendly face in our front office! She brings excellent organizational skills.

We are excited for the amazing work this team will do and grateful for the strengths they bring to Western Avenue. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome!



Michell Cervantes-Executive Director

## **NEW: BASKETBALL PROGRAM**

**Western Avenue Rising**, is our newly updated and rebranded youth basketball program! This fresh approach brings a renewed focus on fun, mentorship, and helping young athletes grow both on and off the court. As we expand this program, we are actively seeking dedicated coaches who are passionate about shaping youth through positive leadership—coaches will receive a stipend for their time and commitment.

## PUTT PUTT FORE CHARITY

Our Putt Putt Fore Charity 2025 event was a tremendous success, raising an incredible \$33,000 for Western Avenue Community Center! We are deeply grateful for Betty Hendricks, all the participating bars, and every single person who came out to play, support, and give so generously. Your enthusiasm and contributions make a real impact on the families we serve. Thank you for helping make this year's event unforgettable—we can't wait to see you all again next year!



Michell Cervantes & Betty Hendricks

## GIVING TUESDAY

**Giving Tuesday**, celebrated on December 3rd, is a global day of generosity that encourages people to support the causes and organizations making a difference in their communities. This year, thanks to the incredible kindness of our supporters, Western Avenue Community Center raised \$12,645! We are truly grateful to all the generous donors whose support and belief in our mission help us continue serving families, strengthening programs, and building a brighter future for our community. Thank you for making this Giving Tuesday one to remember!



## WESTERN AVENUE MERCH

After hearing from so many community members asking about Western Avenue merchandise, we're excited to announce that we've officially opened a store front! Now you can proudly represent Western Avenue with our new sweatshirts, t-shirts, and more. We're thrilled to offer a way for supporters to show their pride while helping us spread awareness. Head to our store to check out all the new gear: [http://orders.minervapromotions.com/w\\_a\\_community\\_center/shop/home](http://orders.minervapromotions.com/w_a_community_center/shop/home)



# YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATES

## BASKETBALL PROGRAM

We're excited to share that our new staff members are hard at work updating and rebranding our youth basketball program, now proudly called Western Avenue Rising. With fresh energy and a passion for supporting young athletes, they're bringing innovative ideas to the table—such as hosting basketball games right here at the center and even creating an AAU team in the future. They recently hosted a successful basketball clinic and have launched open gym sessions, offering youth open gym on Mondays and Tuesdays and adult open gym on Thursdays. Through their planning and community conversations, they've also identified a significant need for programming specifically for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. As a result, Western Avenue Rising will focus on offering strong, engaging opportunities for this age group, helping students grow both on and off the court.



## UPCOMING YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Starting in January, we are excited to relaunch our after-school care program, offering a safe and supportive space for students each afternoon. The program will include snacks, structured playtime, and dedicated tutoring to help students stay on track academically while having fun and building friendships. Alongside this, we will also continue our Willie Brown Leadership Program, providing meaningful opportunities for youth to develop confidence, leadership skills, and a strong sense of community.





## SERVICES WE PROVIDE IN SPANISH & FRENCH

### **WALK-INS:**

Every Monday, Thursday, Friday 2-5pm. \$25 for every 1/2hr.

### **INTERPRETATION:**

We provide affordable interpretation for medical, legal, school and more.

### **TRANSLATION:**

We provide document translation services for items such as birth certificates, letters, and more.

### **WHO WE SERVE:**

We proudly serve individuals, families, schools, and organizations across our community

[Interpretation@Westernavenuecc.org](mailto:Interpretation@Westernavenuecc.org) | 309-829-4807

Reach us for all your interpretation/translation needs today

