



Dear ECHO-Family,
As a publically funded entity, our program does not take political positions. We know, however, that political contexts affect the lives and opportunities of the communities served by the ECHO-LDPP grant.

Many Americans and people across the globe have followed the presidential campaign and waited for the outcome of the election. Many within our ECHO Family experienced stress, anxiety and fear in the last week as the election took place and as we waited for the results. Families, friendships and values have been tested during this time.

On Saturday, we learned the outcome. I will personally acknowledge that listening to and “seeing” Vice-President elect, Kamala Harris on Saturday evening was emotional and inspiring. I thought about my granddaughters and all the children and young women and girls in the world.

ECHO-LDPP is built on a foundation of values, such as compassion, service, caring, attention to contexts and intentionality in the development of relationships, culturally informed and strengths based practices. These values inform the commitment to address oral health disparities. The work to create a just and caring community requires effort, attention and intentionality.

As the country, our local community and our ECHO Family move forward, we can draw strength from our professional and personal values to promote hope, caring communities and justice for all.

On Saturday, I recalled a quote by Wilma Mankiller, who was a Chief of the Cherokee Nation, as I thought about the new leadership. I found it:

Recognizing the good, not just in one's own personal circumstances, but in the world, makes anything possible. When I am asked about the important characteristics of leadership, being of good, positive mind is at the top of my list. If a leader can focus on the meritorious characteristics of other people and try to play to their strengths as well as find value in even the most

difficult situation, she can inspire hope and faith in others and motivate them to move forward.

Let us move forward as change agents and leaders with caring hearts and renewed dedication to inspire hope and faith and to create a better future for all.

With the deepest gratitude for your work and loving hearts, and with best wishes for peace, wisdom and strength, and love.

Dr. Ledesma

ECHO-LDPP UPCOMING EVENTS



ECHO-LDPP Celebrates the Dodgers!

Edited by Melissa Sanchez

When the Dodgers won the World Series this past week, it brought memories from my mother's side of the family about my grandfather. My grandfather was a huge Dodger fan! Before his death, my mom bought him an LA Dodgers cap with his name embroidered on the side. After his passing, my uncles kept the hat. When the Dodgers won the World Series this past week, that uncle posted a picture of his



son (my cousin) wearing the cap. It was nice to see that even though they may or may have not watched the game or whether or not they are fans, because my Grandpa was a fan, it brought us all a space

to remember my grandfather. - **Blanca Olmeda**

The photo shows me with my longtime friend, Wendy, and Eric, who is now her husband watching the Dodgers vs Colorado Rockies game, September 21, 2019. Though the Dodgers lost that game, it was great to be surrounded with friends enjoying a game of Dodger's Baseball! As Vin Scully says, "It's time for Dodgers Baseball!!" - **Dalila Georgestone**



As a kid, my dad would take me and my 2 brothers to Dodger games after work on occasion (my mom wanted no part of it) He would put one of us on his shoulders, and hold the other 2 boys hands and RUN through the parking lot to catch a few innings if we could. I always admired him for making that effort with 3 young boys. I will be doing the same with my littles. - **David Hall**



My friends and I made it a tradition to attend a Dodger home game every year since 2015! Here we are at Dodger Stadium for the Dodgers vs. Astros game on August 3rd, 2018. This game was very special because we were facing the Astros after losing to them in game 7 of the 2017 WS. - **Melissa Sanchez**

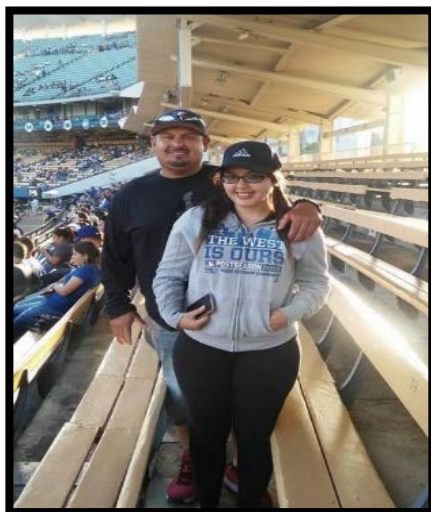


My dad is a baseball player and lifelong Dodger fan. As a child growing up in Los Angeles, he rooted for the Brooklyn Dodgers even before they moved to LA! He was a varsity letterman in baseball at Montebello High School (2nd base) and at UC Riverside (shortstop), only giving up on his personal baseball dreams when I came

along and he began law school. He continued to play in community leagues and played competitive fast-pitch baseball into his 50's. My dad's love of the Dodgers compelled him to travel to Vero Beach, Florida each spring to catch some Spring Training games, and his dream came true when he attended the Dodger's Adult Baseball Camp in Vero Beach and put on that Dodgers' uniform for a whole week of training and competition in 2008. After this long World Series drought, my first thoughts on that last strikeout were of my dad – how happy he must be listening to the fireworks in the city celebrating this 2020 Dodgers championship. Congratulations, Dad! – **Alison Fuligni**



The best early memories I have with my father are going to Dodger games. He would always take me with his friends, and we would yell and eat a lot. This photo is from the first game that I took him to as a birthday gift as opposed to him taking me. – **Maria Orellana-Noguera**



This baseball season re-connected me with a group of old high school friends. We watched the regular and postseason together virtually and went crazy once



Julio Urías threw the last pitch to give us the World Series win. I'm excited to go through the stress and joy of Dodger baseball with my friends again and I can't wait to see Kershaw take the mound again next season. Go Dodgers!! – **Anthony Santiago**

This win was extra special!!!! It was my Daddy's birthday. Dodger Blue goes deep in the Villamil family. My father bought his first car in 1987. It was a Dodge. After work he would go to Dodger Stadium to sand it by hand, and when it was finally prepared, he painted it Dodger Blue!!!! He would take us to games and he would get upset at us, because our cousin, Oscar (RIP) would run back and forth in the right field pavilion. Oscar would start the wave, and my Dad would say, "I'm not going to bring you anymore". But, my Dad continued to take us, all the time in his Dodger Blue Dodge. – **Jackie Ramos**





I was 7 years old when I went to my first baseball game with my Dad to see the Angels of Anaheim. Because of this memory, the Angels were my team... that is, until I met my now husband, a Dodger fan. Our first date was to a Dodger game and since then, my love of the game has expanded to include both teams, with a bigger love for the Dodgers. Even our dog Rocky is a Dodger fan (or maybe just a Dodger dog fan) since he's had one at the ballpark for "Bark in the Park". I feel closer to the Dodgers because of the connection and the community they create in the city of Los Angeles, where I live, work, and grew up in. Born when the Dodgers won the last 'ship, my husband and I have waited a lifetime for this win. Ironically, it was the longest NBA season and shortest baseball season, both which led to two championships for our city. These wins couldn't have come at a better time, when joy is needed most and following the tragic loss of Kobe Bryant. – **Michelle Ilan**



I became a true Dodger fan in my early 20s. As a young single Mom, Vin Scully was my partner on the radio as I cleaned, cooked, ironed. Weekends were planned around Dodger Baseball from March through October. When my husband and I went on our first date for drinks, our conversation at the end of evening was something like this:

Steve: We should do this again.

Me: Yes

Steve: What about Sunday?

*(Me: **Thinking** Oh NO! The Dodgers are on TV Sunday morning.)*

Me: What time are you thinking about getting together?

Steve: What about after the Dodger Game?

Me: Perfect!

The Dodgers were always a part of our relationship and family life. I remember the 1988 series and watching and cheering as Kirk Gibson hit that home run and as the Dodgers went on to win the 1988 World Series!!!



It's been wonderful to share my love for baseball and the Dodgers with my sons, granddaughters and so many others, since Steve exited this planet. So grateful for the opportunities to go to games and talk Dodger baseball!!!

– **Dr. Ledesma**

How it started.



How it's going

