



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY • UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

# children's programs



<Date>

Dear <Salutation>,

*"These kids, it's hard for them. They are trapped between two worlds. The American world offers them things that are both good and bad. And then there is the world that their parents have brought with them. It's hard for them to fully identify with either world, so they have identity challenges, they struggle with belonging. I listened to one of the kids talk one time, and he said I prefer to speak in English, so my mom doesn't know what I am talking about... We need to accompany these kids."*

*-Pastor Franklin Morales*



These kids are the ones whose lives are changed through your financial support of the University of Maryland's Children's Programs (En Camino, CARing and StART). Thank you so much for your past investment in their futures!

Working with these elementary school children continues to be incredibly impactful for me, our students, and these kids. And we couldn't do this work without our partnership with Pastor Franklin Morales, my friend and colleague who cares so deeply for these children, who is at La Sagrada Familia Ministry in Langley Park.

It's not just the children who benefit from being a part of something bigger; our Maryland students (including many of you) have also found new ways to grow and connect to something bigger.



*"A program like En Camino was eye opening, hearing a lot of stories that I hadn't heard before, interacting with a community I never had interacted with before... Being brought into that community... to appreciate how big the world can be, shaped my worldly perspective to understand that we all come from different walks of life. But despite our differences, the similarities between us are that much stronger. I became more empathetic. I've never had to learn about gang violence growing up, feeling safe in my own neighborhood. These are game changing moments in a young adult's life. En Camino, along with what I had been learning with my classes, set me on this course for wanting to help others."*

*-Mike Santini, Class of 2013*



<Salutation>, we are about to start an exciting new year at the University of Maryland. We are welcoming both returning and new volunteers who will help nurture 40 children and, in turn, their families. Along the way, these volunteer students are also nurtured. Please help us make all of this possible. I invite you to contribute to the Amy Sichler Memorial Fund that benefits the Children’s Programs.

<Salutation>, it gets better! We are blessed that alumni, former peer ministers, current board members and amazing donors have come together to contribute dollars for a matching gift fund for this campaign. **Their wonderful generosity has raised \$20,000 and we can now match your gift, dollar-to-dollar to reach our \$40,000 goal.** Having this additional \$40k in the Amy Sichler Memorial Fund means we can help underwrite the costs of current children’s programming.

Please join us in this special opportunity to continue to accompany these wonderful children and their families.

As you consider your gift, please reflect on this recent comment from Pastor Franklin Morales:

*“From my point of view, talking with parents, members of this community, these after school programs are opportunities for the kids to grow, to build their studies, to make connections and to make dreams for their future. This program gives them hope that they belong to something bigger than they think.”*

Peace,

Rev. Ray Ranker

*Pastor and Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Maryland*



*Contribute to the Amy Sichler Memorial Fund now!*

