



La Estrella Resplandeciente

Address: 4118 State Hwy 97, Spring Hope, NC

Email: director@laestrellanc.org

Dear Friends,

I am writing on behalf of the children and families of La Estrella to extend my deepest thanks for your partnership and support of La Estrella's ministry in the past. Without your support, La Estrella could not operate as it does today. As a devoted partner of our ministry, I am writing to update you on some financial challenges that La Estrella is facing in the months and years ahead.

The Duke Endowment's Rural Church Program has provided the majority of La Estrella's financial support over the past ten years. **However, the last check from the Duke Endowment was received in 2020 and those funds are quickly diminishing. La Estrella endeavors to find support from local churches and individuals to help sustain this ministry so that we may continue to change lives. I invite your church to receive God's call and partner with La Estrella to be "shining stars" by meeting the needs of these children and their families.** Contributions to the ministry of La Estrella funds programming that offers opportunities for children (preK-18) to gather together for age-appropriate bible lessons and worship, tutoring services, enrichment activities, and a nutritious meal. La Estrella's mission is to empower and equip Hispanic/Latino children and their families, who are living in fear and poverty without equal access to opportunities, while also preparing them to be successful adults in our community and beyond.

Furthermore, we believe God is calling La Estrella and its partners to build a bridge and heal the deep division between the Anglo and Hispanic/Latino cultures, helping everyone to better understand that we are children of God and all one in Christ. By bringing different cultures together through service, worship, and learning - the Kingdom of God becomes more evident on earth, and racial and stereotypical boundaries are broken down. We believe God is using La Estrella and its partners for restorative Kingdom work.

As you may know, the majority of the children La Estrella serves live in impoverished conditions resulting in poor nutrition when they are not receiving school-funded lunches, affecting their overall performance. Thanks to the donations that we received and volunteer partnerships, we were able to provide well-balanced meals on Saturdays, often sending home leftovers to families, as well as provided nutritious meals during our summer camp. As a result of COVID and not having been able to continue with the regular Saturday Activities, many of our partnerships have disengaged, making it difficult to obtain food donations and in getting volunteers to help during our Saturday activities, thus forcing us to purchase meals from the diminishing funds.

Another issue which we are currently facing is that the school bus we own is very old, has balding tires and is having mechanical issues, which are very costly to repair. In the very near

future we need to explore options to purchase another vehicle to transport these children. Again, we do not have the funds to make such a purchase at this time.

This ministry is a beautiful ministry which changes lives. Aside from helping these children to improve their academic performance, the faith of these children will be nurtured and sustained, so that all have the opportunity to grow deeper in their understanding and love of God. Many of our youth face incredible challenges that most kids their age never deal with. Faith in God offers them hope and strength in an increasingly hopeless environment. Their strong faith empowers them to strive beyond barriers and builds faithful members of society as they grow older. We need your help and support to continue this ministry and to continue changing lives. This cannot be possible without your partnership, prayers and support.

We need your prayers, financial gifts, and service to thrive and live into God's vision now more than ever. Please continue partnering with us to be "shining stars" for the many beautiful Hispanic/Latino children of God in Nash and Wilson Counties.

For more information about how you can strengthen your partnership with La Estrella please contact Rev. Rafael A. Martinez at director@laestrellanc.org and he can work with your congregation to explore ways that you can become further involved with this vital and important ministry.

You can also sign up to volunteer in different areas, donate lunches and make online donations at <https://laestrellanc.org>

Financial contributions can be made on line at our website: <https://districts.nccumc.org/la-estrella-resplandeciente/> or by mailing a check to the North Carolina Conference and indicating in the memo section that it is for La Estrella. Please mail your check to:

North Carolina Conference of the UMC
District Office
Attn: La Estrella
700 Waterfield Ridge Place
Garner, NC 27529

Remember, we can't do this alone, we need your support! Be a Shining Star!

Every Saturday, we have three primary needs:

1. Lunch for all kids and volunteers.
2. Volunteers to help with games and the lesson. Volunteers can be youth or adults!
3. We also need help with building maintenance and repair. That is one thing we use funds for.

Consider asking your trustees if they would be willing to help!

I invite you to help us. Here is how you can help.

Prayers

Pray for our children, youth, and staff.

Presence

Come volunteer with us!

Gifts

Consider partnering financially with us. We provide all activities and programming to kids free of charge. In order to do that, we depend on local churches to support us as an extension ministry of the Conference.

Here are some examples of how your contribution can help at La Estrella:

\$75 will fill the La Estrella bus with gas

\$100 will provide one Saturday meal for all children and volunteers at La Estrella

\$250 will pay for two children to attend the Chestnut Ridge Traveling Day Camp in the summer

\$500 will pay for the operational costs of one Saturday program