



## Volunteer Spotlight

### **Sandra Bradley** **West Chapter Chapter**

*Submitted by Sandra Bradley*

My name is Sandra Bradley, Community Engagement Specialist at the West Chester Area School District, and my position supports non-English-speaking parents in our community. In 2014, I co-founded West Chester Area School District Padres Latinos, known by many as simply *Padres Latinos*. It is a Parent Volunteer Group for Spanish speaking families in our area with a mission to support the connection between schools and parents in order to engage families to support their children's education. Concurrently to the work with Padres Latinos, I worked as an Independent Contractor and provided Translation and Interpreting Services to several clients supporting different industries including Education, Energy, and Environmental.



I attended Elementary, Secondary, and High School in Montevideo, Uruguay. I later studied History at the Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias which is a University in Montevideo. In the United States, I worked towards a degree in Business Administration; but unfortunately, due to life circumstances, I was not able to complete the curriculum. However, I have always been interested in furthering my education. I have completed continuing education classes at Penn State University in Project Management, and I received a Certificate in Translation English-Spanish from the University of Massachusetts. When I am working with an Interpreting or Translation Project, I often have to complete extensive research to familiarize myself with industry-specific terms or acceptable word usage to ensure accuracy in my work. Continuing education, including self-guided research, is an important part of my success.

I have worked in several different industries and settings all the while forcing myself to learn as much as I could. I would search out mentors and engage them to learn how they succeeded. I have leveraged information and skills learned at each of these positions to help my success along the way. It was after I started to volunteer in my community and at my daughter's school that I felt the greatest sense of accomplishment translating and interpreting for the Spanish speaking families in the area. Initially, my skills were adequate to be able to commit my help to this group of parents and over time it grew into a business and a career. As my volunteering and contractor work proceeded, I would hone my skills to meet and exceed the requirements of the deliverables.

Even though it was always clear that I needed to earn a living, my career path was not always clear until fairly recently. I do not look back and see personal failures. I see my life circumstances shaping my career path; and along the way, I was able to gather excellent life and work experience.

I started volunteering at YMWIC as a parent in the West Chester Chapter in 2018. I continue to promote

## Volunteer Spotlight

YMWIC amongst families. Now, as part of my position with the West Chester Area School District, I am excited to continue extending a bridge between YMWIC and the school community. YMWIC provides a safe and challenging environment for Scholars to be themselves while offering real-world life opportunities to all, from college visits to job shadowing opportunities.