



Annual Report 2025



Amigos en Azul

Amigos en Azul is a collective effort made possible by the law enforcement agencies whose members actively serve within the organization.

In 2025, sworn and civilian members from agencies across Dane County came together with a shared commitment to community presence and engagement.

This report highlights the work carried out by Amigos en Azul members and the impact of agencies that continue to support participation in this shared mission.

In 2025, we had participation from the following police departments:



Madison Police Department
Fitchburg Police Department
Sun Prairie Police Department



Monona Police Department
UW-Madison Police Department
Verona Police Department



Federal Bureau of Investigation –Madison
Wisconsin State Patrol



Mission and Values: Our Commitment Forward

In 2025, we took time to reflect, refine and recommit to the principles that guide our work. We updated our mission statement to better reflect the scope of our partnerships and the shared responsibility we hold across agencies and communities.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Amigos en Azul is to dissolve cultural barriers, build partnerships, foster trust and open lines of communication between the Latino community and Dane County area law enforcement to ensure mutual understanding, community safety and collaboration.

To further align our actions with this mission, we clearly defined three core values—Service, Empathy and Collaboration— that guide our work.

Service is our commitment to supporting and uplifting the Latino community through meaningful engagement and accessible resources. Our service is rooted in education, outreach, and the belief that every interaction is an opportunity to build trust.

Empathy guides us how we listen, communicate and respond. We recognize the unique experiences, challenges and strengths within the Latino community, and we approach every individual with respect, compassion and understanding.

Collaboration is the foundation of our success. We work hand-in-hand with residents, community organizations and multiple law enforcement agencies. Through partnerships and shared goals, we amplify impact, strengthen community trust, and create safer, more connected neighborhoods.

These values are reflected in every program, event and interaction throughout the year.

Letter from the Board of Directors

This year presented real challenges for our community and our partners, increasing the need for support and understanding. Through it all, our community and partner organizations continued to show up with commitment and care.

That support is rooted in more than a single year, it reflects over two decades of relationships built on presence, consistency and service. We are deeply grateful to the residents, organizations and law enforcement agencies who continue to stand alongside Amigos en Azul and believe in this work.

Director

Detective Gracia Rodriguez, Madison Police Department

Co-Director

Officer Juan Hinojos, Fitchburg Police Department

Secretary

Officer Odalys Gloria, Sun Prairie Police Department

Administrative Coordinator

Detective Ruben Gonzalez, Madison Police Department

Event Coordinators

Officer Javier Salazar, Madison Police Department
Dispatcher Stephanie Barrera-Gonzalez, Middleton Police Department

Advisor

Detective Zulma Franco, Madison Police Department



Fútbol con Amigos

Fútbol con Amigos continues to provide youth and families opportunities to connect with local law enforcement through recreation and positive interactions. In 2025, the program was hosted at **Lincoln Elementary School in Madison**, **McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg** and **Sheehan Park in Sun Prairie**. With food served and equipment provided, families only needed to show up and enjoy the day, completely free of charge.

Youth ages 6 to 16 participated in structured soccer sessions where Amigos en Azul members and volunteers served as coaches, referees and mentors. As they do every year, **La Barra 608** showed their support by volunteering and helping promote our initiative. While the format remained consistent, each event emphasized inclusion, encouragement and positive engagement in a fun environment.

This year, we welcomed over thirty participants. After each session, participants were recognized with medals for **sportsmanship**, **leadership** and **good attitude**, reinforcing values that extend beyond the field and into everyday life.





Car Seat Clinic & Vehicle Inspection Event

The Car Seat Clinic & Vehicle Inspection Event continues to be a cornerstone of Amigos en Azul's commitment to family and community education. In 2025, the event expanded its reach through broader collaboration with organizations and service providers from across Dane County.

Participating Agencies Included:

- Allied Wellness Center
- City of Fitchburg
- Dane County District Attorney's Office, Victim Witness Services
- Dane County Emergency Management
- Fitch Rona EMS
- Joining Forces for Families
- Reach Dane
- Roots4Change
- Safe Communities
- UNIDOS
- Verona Area School District
- Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles

In partnership with **Safe Kids Madison Area** and the **Fitchburg Police and Fire Departments**, families received hands-on assistance with proper car seat installation, with 45 car seats inspected, and access to free car seats when needed. Activities such as meeting the **Mounted Patrol** from the **UW-Madison Police Department**, facepainting and food from **Parroquia el Buen Pastor**, created a welcoming, family-friendly environment.



Latino Youth Academy

The Latino Youth Academy is designed to equip youth with practical skills, exposure and confidence through direct engagement with local law enforcement and community partners. The program creates opportunities for learning, leadership development and positive interaction in a structured, supportive setting.

In partnership with the **Madison** and **Fitchburg Police Department**, and other community collaborators, the academy serves youth entering 7th and 8th grade, with a focus on reaching those who may have limited access to public safety education. Participants and their families represent diverse backgrounds across Mexico, Central and South America.

Through the weeklong program, youth engage in hands-on learning experiences that emphasize leadership, communication, goal setting and teamwork. Participants gain firsthand insight into the roles and responsibilities of first responders while building skills that support academic success, personal growth and community engagement.

The academy concludes with a graduation celebration attended by families and community members marking not just the completion of a program, but the beginning of lasting relationships rooted in trust and understanding.





Manejando en Wisconsin

In 2025, Amigos en Azul continued **Manejando en Wisconsin**, a monthly Spanish-language radio program on **La Movida** designed to make traffic safety information accessible and relevant to the Latino Community. Sponsored by **WisDOT, NHTSA** and **the Dane County Traffic Safety Commission**, produced in partnership with **Safe Communities**, the program prioritizes education through culturally responsive engagement.

The program reached thousands of listeners through on-air discussions, live call-ins and online comments, creating space for community voices and questions. Topics included school zone and bike safety, distracted driving, impaired driving and seatbelt use, issues that directly impact families and everyday mobility.

By removing language, cultural and access barriers, Manejando en Wisconsin demonstrates how engagement-driven strategies can promote safer behaviors and reduce roadway risk, particularly in spaces where traditional enforcement alone is not enough.



Responding to Community & School Requests

In addition to Amigos-led initiatives, a significant part of our work involves responding to requests from community organizations and schools across Dane County.

Through 2025, Amigos en Azul participated in a variety of community and school based events. These included resources fairs and engagement opportunities such as **Hawthorne Elementary Parent Night**, youth focused education at the **West High School Equity Symposium** and the **Verona High School Latino Leadership Summit**, and participated in events like **Centro's Caminos Program Networking Night** and **Reach Dane Community Helpers**.

Responding to these requests allows Amigos en Azul to remain present, accessible and responsive to evolving community priorities. By engaging in familiar spaces and on community terms, we continue to strengthen connections and provide meaningful support through education, dialogue and visibility.



2025 Extra Mile Award: Community Ally

Amigos en Azul was proudly honored with the **Extra Mile Award** at Madison's Premier Gala **Rhumba 4 Rainbow**, hosted by **The Rainbow Project**.

Amigos en Azul was recognized for its meaningful collaboration with The Rainbow Project, particularly through the workshops provided for Rainbow's **De Mujer a Mujer** support group-creating spaces rooted in safety, understanding and empowerment.

We are honored to be recognized by an organization whose work centers healing, compassion and hope for children and families. This award reaffirms the importance of collaboration and reinforces our belief that meaningful change happens when organizations come together to support children, families and communities with empathy and care. We share this award with the community and partners who make this work possible every day.



Amigos Phone & Social Media

Amigos en Azul remains available to community members and partners with questions related to local law enforcement. We maintain a dedicated phone line monitored by Spanish speaking members, allowing callers to leave a voicemail or text message, and receive a call back.

Social media continues to be an important way we share updates, event information and resources with the community. Our Facebook page helps us stay connected and accessible throughout the year.

Facebook: Amigos en Azul [<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsInBlue>]

Email: amigosenazul@cityofmadison.com

Phone: (608) 228-4038

You contact us for event requests or collaborations.



CONTACT US  **CONTÁCTENOS**

608-228-4038

QUESTIONS?
CALL AND LEAVE A VOICEMAIL

¿PREGUNTAS?
MARQUE Y DEJE SU MENSAJE



Thank You to Our Partners

Our work is made possible by the generosity of our partners and donors. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

- Fitchburg Law Enforcement Foundation
- Madison Community Policing Foundation
- The Flock Foundation
- El Panzón
- Guimos Mexican Restaurant
- Los Perez Supermarket



We also extend our sincere appreciation to the many community organizations, service providers, schools and volunteers who collaborate with us throughout the year. These relationships continue to be the foundation of our work.

If you would like to support our work, you can do so by making a donation to the [Madison Community Policing Foundation](#), Attention: [Amigos en Azul](#).

¡Gracias por su apoyo!





