

# Extra Mile Award — The Rainbow Project

The Rainbow Project's 2021 Extra Mile Award

## **Paola Otten-Romero**

The Rainbow Project is pleased to present an Extra Mile Award to Paola Otten-Romero this year. For the past five years, Paola has been serving children as a bilingual school psychologist in the Madison Metropolitan School District. In this role, she has been able to provide many services to students including facilitating social-emotional groups, leading trainings on how to support LGBTQ+ students and providing direct services to students with disabilities, behavioral concerns or bilingual students. Paola is able to collaborate and consult with families and community members regarding students' academic and behavioral/socio-emotional development.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, one of Paola's colleague notes that Paola, "spent many hours outside of work directly helping families during the COVID-19 pandemic beyond supporting students' direct educational needs. Her support included: helping families apply for rent and utility assistance; signing up for unemployment; finding food and medical resources; finding employment; signing up for internet access; offering emotional support; and delivering food, personal essentials and medical supplies to families." Paola strives to continually provide the best care in area schools and truly goes the extra mile to ensure families have what they need.

Paola's co-worker adds: "She has touched so many families in our community and I know they are all so grateful that they can rely on her when they face challenges or have a need...Paola sees what is needed and does everything she can to get things in place — she doesn't let roadblocks stop her from getting students and families what is needed."

Please join us in congratulating Paola Otten-Romero on receiving this year's Extra Mile Award. The Rainbow Project thanks her for her unwavering support of children and families in our community.

