Somos TB

Peer Support and Community for Spanish-Speaking People
Diagnosed with TB and Caretakers

Presented by Karen Reyna, Somos TB Lead Jackie Cuen, Somos TB Support

Who Are We? We Are... TB!

- Somos TB is the sister organization of the US-based organization We Are TB, a
 peer support and advocacy group composed of people who have been
 personally affected by Tuberculosis
- We Are TB holds weekly virtual meetings, also known as "Support Space"
- Support Space is meant to facilitate a connection with those struggling with the physical, mental, and emotional symptoms (current or lingering) that accompany a TB diagnosis

¿Quiénes Somos?



- In March 2022, Somos TB began offering monthly Support Space solely in Spanish
- The focus of these meetings is to be able to connect with Spanish-speakers who:
 - are currently undergoing TB treatment
 - have received TB treatment in the past
 - have cared for a patient with a TB diagnosis

Battling TB During Pregnancy

Importance of support for those **directly** affected by TB

- Being diagnosed with TB while pregnant was one of the toughest things I've ever had to do.
- I was scared for myself and my child because of what I had read online about TB
- I felt alone because no one could understand what I was going through.
- The hardest part of my journey was getting so sick from being misdiagnosed with pneumonia.
- I wish I had known about We Are Tb during my treatment, support in these times are crucial to mental health.

Battling TB During Pregnancy





Overcoming TB as a Preemie

Importance of support for those **indirectly** affected by TB

- At 30 weeks Julian was born and was shortly diagnosed with tuberculosis.
- Finding information on pediatric tuberculosis online was very challenging
- Even more challenging: finding support for my family and I during these frightening times
- Somos has helped TB
 patients and their families
 find accurate information and
 most importantly, have a
 space where they can feel
 understood.

Overcoming TB as a Preemie

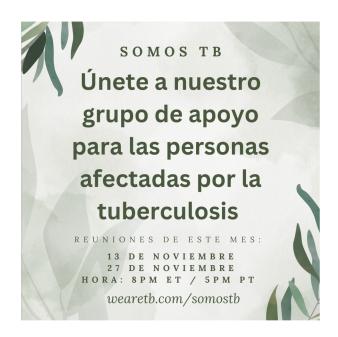




TEA Mini-Grant 1-Year Plan

- 1. Increase support space meetings from monthly to biweekly
- 2. Use social media platforms to share:
 - Meeting reminders
 - Information on group activities and events
 - Gratitude posts to fellow TB-focused organizations
- 3. Represent group at healthcare-related events to:
 - Promote Somos TB Support Space
 - Network with healthcare providers and other organizations (private or public)
 - Stay educated on relevant information about TB
- Maintain connections and propose collaborations to expand our visibility in the TB community

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THANK YOU