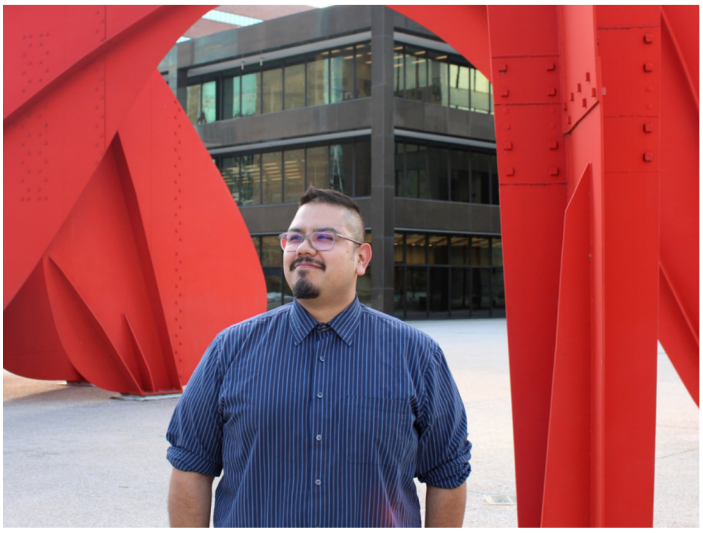
# Employee Spotlight: Marcial Benavidez, Jr.



**Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**
I am a proud husband and father of 3 children, and currently volunteer as a program manager at a local faith based Spanish Radio Station 103.7 Fm Radio Ondas de Vida. I earned my Associates Degree in Business Administration from Grand Rapids Community College and I'm just a humble citizen of Earth, disciplined in APA (Accordion Performance Art) and looking forward to retiring in 2067.

**What is your position at Kent County and what individuals do you work with?**
I'm the Communications Specialist for the West Michigan Welcome Plan and assist with our program's collaboration with organizations, local leaders, and the newcomer community.

**What are two or three things that staff should know about your role?**
The Welcome Plan is a community effort to collaborate our resources and unique ideas in order to create a welcoming community for Immigrants, Refugees, and New Americans. Our network consists of businesses, nonprofits, and government offices and I share Welcome Plan updates, along with refugee/immigrant resources and events through our communication platforms on Youtube, Facebook, Instagram and our e-newsletters. If you would like to share something that could help our newcomer community, please send me an email at marcial.benavidez@kentcountymi.gov.

**What is the most rewarding part of your job? What is the most challenging?**
The most rewarding part of my job is that I feel like I am actually making a difference in the organizations and communities I work with through the Welcome Plan; forming connections that help newcomers is very rewarding. The most challenging part is that I'm still learning about the different aspects of the nonprofit world and how to best connect with their programs and clients.

# Employee Spotlight

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**Do you have any interesting/ fun stories about residents you have worked with?**

I remember visiting an organization last year that helped my family back in 1990, coming back to reach out to them about our work was a blast from the past. I was pleased that they continue helping families like mine and glad that they can be a part of the Welcome Plan Collaborative.



**Is there anything else you want to say/talk about?**

I'm grateful to be a part of the West Michigan Welcome Plan work and will continue to help out in any way I can!

