



**MEET ERICA RAMOS...**New Branch Manager at Chemical Bank in Fennville

Chemical Bank in Fennville has been a member and strong supporter of our chamber of commerce for more than 25 years. Getting to know our new Branch Manager, Erica Ramos, convinced me that their tradition of community service and involvement will be ongoing.

Erica has been with Chemical Bank for nine years and came to us from Saugatuck where she was a Senior CSR. That's Senior Customer Service Representative for those of us not in the know.

She has four children, ages 11, 5, 2 and 1. When I asked her how she handled four small children along with a full time job, she said, "I'm extremely thankful for my husband who stays home with them. Not to say I don't do my fair share of running around, but he's my cornerstone and I wouldn't be able to do it without him." As any parent knows, keeping up with the demands of football practice, karate, gymnastics, doctor's appointments and the like is a full time job in itself.

Erica is bi-lingual. Her father is from Colombia and she grew up with the Spanish language. She perfected her Spanish by taking courses in High School and college. She says she wanted to come to Fennville to better utilize her bi-lingual skills.

As former co-chair of the Hispanic Outreach committee, she taught a six-week financial management course which covered topics from balancing a checkbook to compound interest and how to establish a good credit rating. She says she was often amazed at how student's eyes would light up as they experienced an "aha!" moment and suddenly grasped what had previously been beyond their comprehension. "I remembered when I went through the public school system" said Erica, "these are things that aren't taught."

Erica has been appointed a member of the Fennville Board of Directors and already serves on several committees. She's also been voted on to the board of the Allegan County United Way where she is co-treasurer. "I think that this will give me a unique opportunity to be able to bring the services from the United Way closer to Fennville."

Welcome to Fennville Erica!