

# La Oportunidad, Inc.

## Annual Report 2016



*Championing the development of  
Latino individuals and families to  
create a strong, peaceful community.*

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# Why Our Work Matters?

For 30 years, La Oportunidad has responded to critical community needs by providing programs for low-income, under-served Latinos of all ages. **The mission of La Oportunidad is to champion the development of Latino individuals and families to create a strong, peaceful community.** Since 1987, we have provided bilingual and culturally relevant family-centered programs for Latino children, youth, adults and families.

The goal of La Oportunidad is to address the interconnected issues that impact underserved Twin Cities Latinos and which result in significant educational achievement gaps, high poverty rates, and high rates of domestic abuse. Our critical role in closing the achievement gap and breaking the cycles of violence and poverty positively impacts the Latino community.

Specifically, La Oportunidad impacts hundreds (**788 in 2016**) of Latino individuals and families in the community each year by:

- Fostering social and emotional development in children and youth and preparing them for successful educational and career pathways.
- Providing parents with the tools to support their children's development and paths to success.
- Empowering individuals and families to live violence-free and engage meaningfully in their communities.

**Outcomes and indicators for each program are found on subsequent pages of this report.**

## We Can't Do it Alone!

**La Oportunidad relies on the support and assistance of many strategic partnerships to do our work. In addition to the supporters recognized on page ten and eleven, other key partners include:**

**Minneapolis Public Schools:** La Oportunidad has partnered with the Minneapolis Public Schools Community Education Department since 1999. In partnership with 21st Century Community Learning Centers, La Oportunidad provides effective after school education, enrichment, engagement and cultural programming that complement the regular academic program in order to help students achieve, connect and thrive. As a Certified Community Partner with the district, La Oportunidad offered programs onsite at **Andersen United Elementary, Folwell Middle School, Ramsey Middle School, Richard R. Green School, Roosevelt High School, Sanford Middle School and Wellstone International High School.**

**Additional Partners in 2016 include:**

Augsburg College

City of Minneapolis Youth Violence Prevention/  
Blueprint for Action

Community Design Group

Hennepin County Library

Lincoln International High School

Latino Economic Development Center

Minneapolis Television Network (MTN)

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Minnesota History Center

Minnesota Literacy Council/Open Door Learning

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

North Park Elementary School

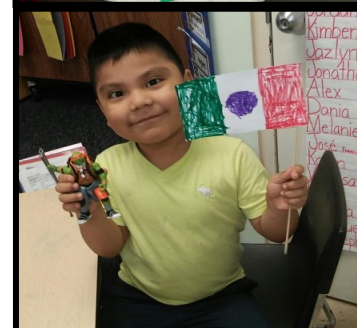
Pope John Paul II Catholic School

University of Minnesota

Urban Ventures

Waite House- Neighborhood Center

Youth Intervention Programs Association



## A Message from the Board President and the Executive Director

Dear Friends of La Oportunidad,

We hope you enjoy learning about our impact in the community in 2016 through this report. Our unique continuum of services develops individual skills and support systems to prepare family members for success in school, work, relationships, and life. We are very proud of the critical role we play in helping to close the achievement gap and break the cycles of poverty and violence! As usual, we want to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to those who support our work with their financial contributions, time, energy, and talents. There is still much work to be done and we hope to inspire everyone to join us in our vision of a community in which Latinos –whether long-term residents or new arrivals – thrive and contribute to the strength of the greater community! On behalf of the hundreds of families we serve each year, we would like to say: Muchas Gracias, we couldn't do it without you!

*Brian Grande and Eloisa Echávez*

### Current Board of Directors

**Brian Grande, President**

*Business Operations Analyst II, TC Bank*

**Linda Freemon, Vice-President**

*Purchasing Agent, CareFusion*

**Anne Knauff, Secretary**

*Retired Design Manager*

**Humberto Olivares**

*Regional Private Banker, Wells Fargo Bank N.A.*

**William Nelson, Treasurer**

*Retired Manager, Volunteers of America*

### Current Board Advisors

**Pamela Barragán**

*St. Paul Police Department*

**Katherine Fitzsimmons**

*Farmer's Hat Productions*

**María Ramírez Johnson**

*Retired Minneapolis Public Schools Teacher*

### Current Staff

**Eloisa Echávez**

*Executive Director*

**Adrian Diaz**

*Young Professionals Program Coordinator*

**Carla Miller**

*Finance Coordinator*

**Elizabet Vargas**

*Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator*

**Teofilo Nuñez**

*LEAP and Parents Program Coordinator*

**Maureen Springer**

*Latino Youth Program Coordinator*

## Thank you to all of our volunteers in 2016

Ana Alvarado  
Anahi Gil  
Alan Galarza Pliego  
Alvaro Coraizaco  
Brandon Martinez  
Carla Yunga  
Danna Salinas Morales  
David Echavez-Valdez  
David Torres  
Diana Mozo Ceron  
Elise Hotz  
Elizabeth Parra  
Erik Alfonso Chavez Molina  
Erik Garcia  
Fatima Sanchez

Gaby Beltran  
Jacqueline Osorio  
Jasmin Sanchez  
Jennifer Meza  
Junggu Lee  
Kaily Ceballos  
Karen Hernandez Escobedo  
Karina Briones  
Karla Ceron  
Katelyn Dirkman  
Marlene Rodriguez  
Margaret Boling  
Maria Rios  
Maricruz Lozano Rios  
Melissa Flores

Marian Garcia Gonzaga  
Michael Pliego  
Nicolass Regnier  
Lisbeth Gutierrez  
Lucienne Nagel  
Luis Lopez  
Reyna Martinez-Marzano  
Romina Guerrero.  
Saira Cervantez  
Sandy Canseco  
Samantha Weiss  
Sarahi Ruiz Velasco  
Wendy Sanchez Zamora  
Zayra Flores



## El Camino Children's Program



**El Camino** (The Path) is a weekly after school and summer program for Latino children ages 5-11. This bilingual program promotes cultural education and develops life skills that encourage positive attitudes and behaviors in the areas of self, family and community. Programs build positive relationships and pride in cultural roots. Outcomes include increased self-esteem, development of practical assets and a strengthened capacity for life-long success.

**In 2016**, El Camino served **76** children. Program outcomes include:

**81%** Increased positive feelings about themselves and their identity

**100%** Increased awareness of the importance of family and culture

**84%** Improved relationships with peers, friends and family members

**97%** Increased awareness of the importance of doing well in school and having positive involvement in their school and community

**Why the El Camino (The Path) Children Program matters:** A study of approximately 3,000 low-income, ethnically-diverse elementary and middle school students found that those who regularly attended high quality after school programs over two years demonstrated **gains of 12 to 20 percentiles in standardized math test scores**, compared to peers who spent after school hours unsupervised. (Advancement Project CA, 2012).

## Latino Youth Programs

La Oportunidad's Youth Development & Leadership and Young Professionals Programs serve under-represented, low-income Latino immigrant youth by providing them with the education, life-long skills development, tools, and connections needed to lead and succeed in the 21st century. For over 20 years, we have worked successfully with schools, families, and the community to close educational achievement gaps and eliminate cycles of violence and poverty. Through bilingual, culturally competent school-based programs and complementary activities such as the Annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference and summer programming, Latino youth gain a plan of action to pursue higher education, an introduction to career pathways, work-readiness skills, leadership skills and community involvement.



## Youth Development & Leadership Program

Weekly after school groups at middle and high schools and a six-week summer session assist Latino youth ages 12-18 to develop life-long skills, positive attitudes and behaviors in the areas of education, self, family and community and help them become positive, contributing community members. The summer program features a single project such as creating a mural on a community building or cooking family recipes. An annual student-led Latino Youth Leadership Conference brings together over 250 area youth for a day-long event to share cultural pride, learn new skills and explore ways to build peace in their lives.



**School-based program:** In 2016, the program served **91** Latino youth. Program outcomes include:

**89%** Increased participation in their education and life goals

**82%** Increased sense of self-esteem and self-worth

**89%** Improved relationships with peers, family members and others

**77%** Increased capacity for leadership and/or ability to make a positive contribution to their community

### Annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference:

Our 16th Annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference took place on Friday, May 20, 2016 at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

This year's conference theme was "De Donde Vengo y Adonde Voy" (where I'm from and where I'm going). Conference participants also enjoyed a powerful and energetic message from national keynote speaker David Edward Garcia and performances from Ecuadorian folkloric dance group Juventud Latina and bboy crew Phaze II followed by a dance and a resource fair.



**261 youth and 72 adults** attended this year's conference representing over twenty different schools. **86%** of youth participants expressed an increase in cultural pride and connection

**75%** expressed and increased capacity for leadership

**88%** reported an increase in skills, knowledge, and/or positive attitudes in at least one of the following areas: self, relationships, education, and/or community.

The Latino Youth Leadership Conference is an annual conference for Latino middle school and high school youth, consisting of workshops, presentations, and activities that promote healthy youth development, leadership, and positive cultural identity. Through interactive workshops and activities, conference participants learn from each other and share their perspectives and experiences regarding issues relevant in the lives of Latino youth. **What makes this event one-of-a-kind, is that it is fully planned by a leadership committee of 20-30 Latino high school students who meet weekly for eight months.**



### Why the Latino Youth Development & Leadership Program Matters:

According to the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, after school hours are the peak time for juvenile crimes and risky behavior. NYVPRC found that children who do not spend any time in after school activities are **49 percent more likely to have used drugs and 37 percent more likely to become a teen parent**. Additionally, research indicates that non-cognitive skills such as persistence, grit, self-control, curiosity and confidence are the most critical factors to success in school and life,

even more important than intelligence and quality education. La Oportunidad's after school programs foster these skills for disadvantaged Latino youth (How Children Succeed, Paul Tough).



### Young Professionals Career Path Program

Created in the summer of 2013 as a pilot program, this program was so successful that it was fully implemented and has been offered year-round since 2014. This program helps mostly older teen (and also young adult immigrants) plot their futures with career planning and hands-on, step-by-step job seeking skill development. In **2016**, the program served **82** youth. Program outcomes include:

**91%** Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests

**94%** Identified required education and skills needed to pursue their career path

**95%** Developed a plan to fulfill their short and long-term career goals

**73%** Identified a mentor who can support them



**Why the Young Professionals Career Path Program Matters:** Finding and keeping a good job is one of the only ways persons of low income can improve their economic situation. However, learning social and work-related expectations, finding available jobs, completing applications, building a solid resume and preparing for interviews can be insurmountable challenges for immigrants with limited language skills. In a survey by the Conference Board, an independent business membership and research association, employers rated skills and qualities such as teamwork, work ethic, problem solving and leadership higher than mathematics and science. La Oportunidad introduces these non-cognitive skills in all classes.

## Padres Parenting Program

The **Padres (Parents) Program** offers year-round programming to Latino parents, providing positive techniques to enhance parenting and support their children's education. The Spanish-taught, culturally specific curriculum provides tools to raise healthy, well-adjusted children who will contribute to their communities. Additionally, the Padres program offers financial literacy lessons, community workshops, individual referrals and guidance.

**In 2016**, the Padres Program served **105** parents. Program outcomes include:

**90%** Developed positive parenting skills, applied them at home, and improved family relationships

**98%** Increased participation in their children's education

**95%** Developed a stronger parenting support system in the community

**88%** Increased knowledge of personal financial management

**Why the Padres (Parents) Program Matters:** According to Jose Rico, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Latinos, when parents and school personnel work together, students' attendance increases and their academic performance improves. Additional studies show parental involvement helps children develop better social skills and become more likely to graduate from high school and continue on to higher education (NBC Latino).



## Early Literacy Program



To remove barriers to participation, the *Padres* program offers child supervision/Early Literacy programming where participants' children enjoy fun and interactive educational activities that improve literacy skills and kindergarten readiness.

**Why the Early Literacy Program Matters:** Early literacy skills develop in real life settings through positive interactions with literacy materials and other people (Boston University Medical Center). The Minneapolis Foundation found that only **41%** of Latino students in Minneapolis enter kindergarten prepared. Additionally, the academic achievement gaps between Latino and white Minneapolis students remain prominent. Only **48%** of Latino third graders were proficient in reading compared to **91%** of whites.



# Latinos Ending Abuse Program

The **Latinos Ending Abuse Program (LEAP)** provides year-round group programming to Latino men and women, giving them the tools, education, and support necessary to help eliminate violent behaviors in their relationships, families, and communities. LEAP participants receive education and support that addresses cultural perspectives and factors surrounding patterns of violence and abuse and learn what healthy relationships entail and how to foster them.

In 2016, the Latinos Ending Abuse Program served **173** Latino adults. Program outcomes include:

**96%** Increased understanding of the impact of domestic violence on the family

**90%** Practiced concepts and skills shared in class as alternatives to violence and improved family relationships

**88%** Increased knowledge of personal financial management

**100%** did not re-offend after completion of the program

**Why Latino Ending Abuse Program Matters:** Latinos Ending Abuse Program (LEAP) addresses the need for culturally specific violence prevention and intervention education for Latino families in the Twin Cities. Latina women face barriers that other women do not face: many do not speak English well or at all, they may not have legal status in the United States, they do not understand the legal system, and they are accustomed to a culture of pervasive machismo. In addition to the impact of abuse on women, it is estimated that 40-60% of men who abuse women also abuse children ([www.dvalianza.org](http://www.dvalianza.org)). "Several factors, including discrimination and a lack of bilingual/bicultural staff, have led to an underutilization of domestic violence services by Latinos affected by domestic violence." ([www.dvalianza.org](http://www.dvalianza.org)) for undocumented immigrants, fear of deportation is a major barrier to accessing services.

## Volunteer Program

The **Volunteer Program** welcomes volunteers of various backgrounds to partner with us. Our volunteers often co-facilitate groups with a staff member, gaining hands-on experience in lesson planning, classroom management, bilingual education and learning from the youth and adults who participate in our programs.

**Why the Volunteer Program Matters:** La Oportunidad's small staff would not have the reach and impact that we do without the partnership and commitment of our volunteers. The 2636 donated hours have a value of **\$57,754.76**



according to the Independent Sector, a nonprofit leadership network. While La Oportunidad clearly benefits from volunteers' contributions, so do program participants, who see volunteers as role models. Volunteers benefit as well, gaining valuable experiences and opportunities to interact within and strengthen a culturally diverse community.

**2016 Outcomes:** La Oportunidad would not have the reach and impact that we do without the partnership and commitment of our volunteers. In 2016, **60** volunteers contributed 2636 hours of their time and energy to our programs. This includes after school program assistants, early literacy child supervisors, Board members and the Peace and Leadership Conference planning committee of **30** high school students who met weekly for ten months.



## En Familia T.V. Show

Created by E&B Productions, En Familia (Among Family) is a Spanish-language television program in its eighth year of production. The program is produced and hosted by La Oportunidad's Executive Director, Eloisa Echávez, who covers a variety of topics including education, parenting, health, financial literacy, domestic violence, housing, immigration, community involvement, leadership development and much more. As the only Spanish television program for Minnesota's Latino community taped at MTN Studios, En Familia brings important information and empowering resources to its viewers. Around 20,000 individuals are reached by En Familia each year, which has contributed to the program's broad community recognition.

To learn more and/or view complete shows go to: <http://oportunidad.org/programs/television-program>. Below is a partial list of most recent shows, name of the guest, and topic presented & discussed:



- ~Erik Garcia, Overcoming Challenges and Serving as a Positive Role Model to Latino Youth.
- ~Science Museum of Minnesota: A tour of the museum, special focus on “Amantes de la Ciencia” event for Latino families and the museum’s Great Tix Program.
- ~Dr. Katherine Páez Echávez, Occupational Health: Health and Safety in the Workplace.
- ~Tracy Grundman, J.D., Worker’s Rights under OSHA -Occupational Safety & Health Admin.- MN.
- ~Jennifer M. O’Brien, MPH and Javi Monardez, MPH, Teen-Friendly & Accessible Services Across Hennepin County Medical Center.
- ~Ursula Reynoso, Youth primary care services, including health education, and coaching
- ~Jaki Ramirez, Medica State Public Programs: their plans and services for low-income individuals.
- ~Sheila Rojas, Latino Youth’s Mental Health Issues, Prevention and Treatment.
- ~Humberto Olivares, Overcoming Barriers to Success and Empowering Latino Individuals.
- ~Karen Hernandez, Latino Youth Community Involvement and Leadership.
- ~Monica Hurtado and Gabriella Deal-Marquez, Voices for Racial Justice.
- ~Marcela Sanchez, Hennepin County Library, Resources and Programs for Latino Families.
- ~Rodolfo Gutierrez, HACER, The Education of Latinos in Minnesota Report.
- ~Mauricio Cifuentes, CLUES’s Mental Health Services.
- ~Elia Dimayuga-Bruggeman, MN Department of Education, Importance of Parental Involvement.
- ~Vincent Ruiz Ponce, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, College Admission Process.
- ~Mildred Patricia Lanning, Community Involvement and Benefits of Volunteering.
- ~Ana Espitia Rosas and Brian Grande, Impact of La Oportunidad’s Programs in their Lives.
- ~Yolanda Cotterall, Rodolfo Gutierrez, and Jack Reuler, Mixed Blood Theater.
- ~Ruby Arzudia-Lee, CLUES’s Services to the Latino Community.
- ~Rosalinda Armendariz, Lincoln International High School, Charter Schools for Latino Youth.
- ~Stephanie Escobedo and Reyna Yadira Martinez, Breaking Barriers and Inspiring other Youth.
- ~Ytmar Santiago, MN Department of Human Rights, Resources and Services to the Community.
- ~Dr. Ana Diaz, Mental Health Issues Affecting the Latino Community (Depression & Dementia).
- ~Josefina Franco and Margarita Carrillo, Latina Leadership Media & Political Empowerment Project.
- ~Roxanny Almendariz, NEDA, Housing Services and Resources for the Latino Community.
- ~Teo Nunez, La Oportunidad’s LEAP and Padres Programs, Eliminating the Cycle of Violence.
- ~Dr. Renee Camara, Lake Street Dental. Oral Health, Prevention and Treatment of Oral Diseases.

# Contributors, Supporters, and Financial Information

## Foundation and Corporate Support

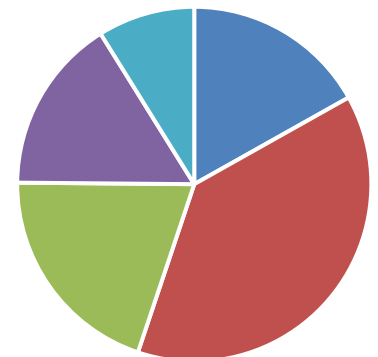
<i>Elmer &amp; Eleanor Andersen Foundation</i>	<i>Marbrook Foundation</i>	<i>Schulze Family Foundation</i>
<i>Patrick &amp; Aimee Butler Family Foundation</i>	<i>Medica Foundation</i>	<i>Sexton Family Foundation</i>
<i>Exchange Club of East Minneapolis</i>	<i>Messerli &amp; Kramer Foundation</i>	<i>TEGNA/KARE11 Foundation</i>
<i>Grotto Foundation</i>	<i>McDonald's</i>	<i>Thomson Reuters Foundation</i>
<i>Kopp Family Foundation</i>	<i>Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation</i>	<i>James R. Thorpe Foundation</i>
<i>Mall of America</i>	<i>Otto Bremer Foundation</i>	<i>Warren Foundation</i>
	<i>Perrigo Company Foundation</i>	<i>Youthprise</i>

## United Way, Government and School Support

<i>Dakota Community Corrections</i>	<i>Hennepin HSPH: Child Protection</i>	<i>Minneapolis Schools :</i>
<i>Greater Twin Cities United Way</i>	<i>MN Department of Public Safety</i>	<i>-Minneapolis Community Education</i>
<i>Hennepin Community Corrections</i>		<i>-English Language Learners</i>

	2016		2015	
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$206,884	49%	\$260,605	57.5%
Government Service Fees	\$124,929	29%	\$102,482	22.6%
All Other Revenues	\$92,625	22%	\$90,254	19.9%
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$424,438</b>		<b>\$453,341</b>	
El Camino Program	\$70,106	17%	\$94,539	21%
Latino Youth Program	\$159,108	38%	\$132,612	29.4%
Padres Program	\$83,057	20%	\$77,625	17%
Latinos Ending Abuse Program	\$66,443	16%	\$101,733	22.6%
Programs Subtotal	\$378,714	91%	\$406,509	90%
Management & Fundraising	\$36,870	9%	\$45,837	10%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$415,584</b>		<b>\$452,346</b>	
<b>Total Assests</b>	<b>\$39,850</b>		<b>\$376,001</b>	
Total Liabilities	\$17,503		19513	
Change in Net Assets	\$8,654		\$995	
Beginning Net Assets	\$321,238		\$320,241	
<b>Net Assets Ending</b>	<b>\$329,892</b>		<b>\$321,238</b>	

**2016 Expense Chart**



- El Camino Program, \$70,106-17%
- Latino Youth Program, \$159,108-38%
- Padres Program, \$83,057-20%
- Latinos Ending Abuse Program, \$66,443-16%
- Management & Fundraising, \$36,870-9%



# Contributors and Supporters

Individual Donors		
<i>Dean A. and Debra A. Armstrong</i>	<i>Linda Freemon</i>	<i>Alice Pena</i>
<i>ANONYMOUS</i>	<i>Brian Grande</i>	<i>Jorge Ulate-Rodriguez</i>
<i>Joshua Campbell</i>	<i>Maria and Lloyd Johnson</i>	<i>John L. Romano</i>
<i>Mario Duarte</i>	<i>Anne Knauff</i>	<i>Eric Vega</i>
<i>Eloisa Echavez</i>	<i>Diane L. and William F. Nelson</i>	<i>Andrea Villeda</i>
<i>Ana Espitia Rosas</i>	<i>Humberto Olivares</i>	
Corporate Employee Donors		
<i>Ameriprise Financial</i>	<i>General Mills Foundation</i>	<i>Prudential Foundation</i>
<i>The Benevity Community Impact Fund</i>	<i>The K Foundation</i>	<i>Thrivent Choice Program</i>
		<i>Vanguardia Charitable</i>
In-Kind Contributions		
<i>Augsburg College Latin@ Student Services</i>	<i>MOA Tourism Department</i>	
<i>Chipotle</i>	<i>Raising Canes</i>	



*This list includes contributions from January 1, 2016-December 31, 2016 Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. However, if we have overlooked anyone, we apologize and would greatly appreciate being notified. Please call us at 612-872-6165.*

***Thank you for supporting La Oportunidad!***



# Annual Report 2016

2700 E Lake Street, Suite 3100

Minneapolis, MN 55406

*Championing the development of Latino  
individuals and families to create a  
strong, peaceful community.*

*Ser un líder en el desarrollo de individuos  
y familias Latinas para crear una  
comunidad fuerte y pacífica.*



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Community Partner



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