



# 2007 Annual Report

## La Oportunidad, Inc.

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





Over the last 20 years, La Oportunidad has become an internationally recognized and leading provider of bilingual and bicultural family-centered educational and supportive programs. A nonprofit 501c3 organization created in 1987, La Oportunidad achieves its mission through programs, services, community outreach and collaborations.

La Oportunidad experienced another year of great success in 2007. The organization significantly exceeded its program goals, expanded programming, increased funding and organizational capacity, and completed a strategic plan for 2008-2010.

**Over 1,570 children, youth, and parents' lives were positively changed by La Oportunidad:** El Camino Children's Programs, Latino Youth Programs, Padres Parenting Programs, and Latinos Ending Abuse Program helped Latino individuals and families to achieve greater capacity, develop practical skills, nurture healthy relationships, and build a stronger community.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Youth Peace Conference:** 200 students from across the Twin Cities metro gathered to explore ways of achieving peace in the community.

**Peace is Possible community celebration:** Over 400 community members celebrated La Oportunidad's 20 years of service and impact to the community and the positive contributions of Latinos in Minnesota.

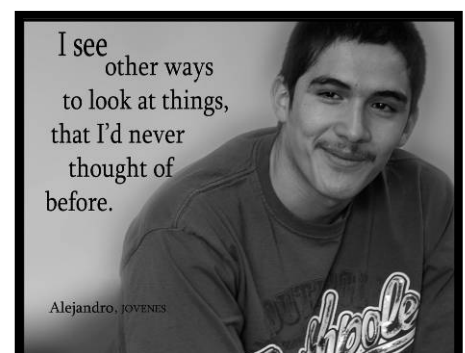
**City of Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak** proclaimed May 24, 2007 as La Oportunidad *Peace is Possible* Day in the City of Minneapolis.

**La Feria, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Family Resource Fair:** 85 bilingual education, health, and social service providers connected with 2,000 community members to increase awareness and access to services.

**Accountability to our Donors:** Once again, La Oportunidad continued to meet all accountability standards (including public disclosure, governance, financial activity, and fundraising) set forth by the Charities Review Council.

**Strategic Plan 2008-2010:** As part of a multilateral process that engaged key stakeholders, La Oportunidad revamped its mission, vision, values, and created key organizational goals.

**Increased technological capacity:** By developing a new bilingual website and initiating a data management improvement process, La Oportunidad improves organizational systems to become more effective and provides greater accessibility to resources in the community.

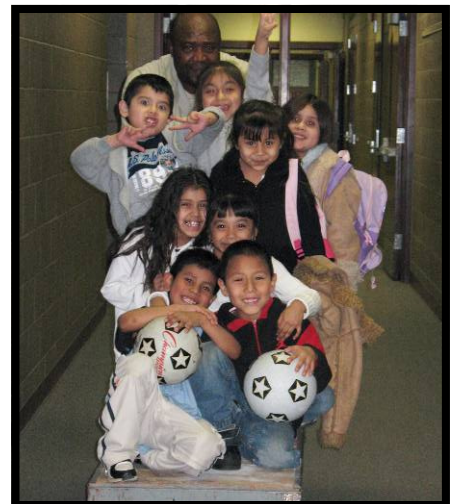




## EL CAMINO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The **El Camino** (The Path) **Children's Programs** provide bilingual and bicultural school-based groups and summer programming to Twin Cities Latino children. El Camino assists children in developing positive attitudes and behaviors in the areas of self, family, and community that will reduce their vulnerability to negative behaviors in their adolescence.

El Camino serves as a compliment to the formal learning process, helping to improve school success while increasing the children's awareness of the importance of education and staying in school. Weekly after-school cultural support groups are provided to Latino children, ages 5 to 11, at area elementary schools throughout the school year. These groups present a bilingual and bicultural violence prevention and intervention curriculum, which help children to develop specific skills to improve self-esteem, develop practical skills, strengthen their capacity, and build resiliency for lifelong success. The small groups implement a tailored curriculum that focuses on self-esteem, reinforcing positive conflict resolution and peacemaking. These topics are presented in an age-appropriate and culturally-competent manner and are followed with concept-building activities designed to build a specific skill or asset. The groups not only help Latino children build skills and assets but also provide a supportive, nurturing environment where the children can explore their cultural heritage, maintain or improve their Spanish language skills, and establish nurturing relationships with program staff, parents, volunteers, and teachers.



## 2007 OUTCOMES

- In 2007, El Camino direct programming served 360 Twin Cities Latino children.
- 82% of participants completed the programming.
- 94% of participants reported and exhibited increased positive feelings about themselves and their identity.
- 86% of participants reported increased satisfaction in relationships with their friends, families, and teachers.
- 90% of participants reported an increased awareness of their role and involvement in their school and community.



## LATINO YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Latino Youth Programs** provide bilingual and bicultural weekly school-year groups, a mentorship program, a leadership program, an annual Peace Conference, summer programming, and special activities. Latino Youth Programs assist Latino adolescents in developing positive attitudes and behaviors in the areas of education, self, family, and community that will help them to become positive, contributing members of the community.

Latino Youth Programs assist at-risk Twin Cities Latinos ages 12-18 to develop positive attitudes and behaviors in the areas of education, self, family, and community in order to become positive, contributing members of the community. Latino adolescents and children face cultural and language barriers that make thriving in society more challenging. La Oportunidad provides education and support that empowers Latino teenagers to develop skills that will help them to solve problems, plan for their futures, and build positive relationships at home and in school that will help them to succeed. Our program for Latino youth is prevention-based and follows the guiding principles established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Search Institute Guidelines for developmental asset-building. Youth are encouraged to interact positively with peers, parents, and teachers. By focusing on early intervention and truancy diversion, La Oportunidad is able to better increase positive behaviors and divert youth from participation in high-risk activities.

## 2007 OUTCOMES

- In 2007, Latino Youth Programs direct programming served 725 Twin Cities Latino youth.
- 84% of participants completed the programming.
- 86% of participants reported an increased participation in their education and life goals.
- 94% of participants reported an increased sense of self-esteem and self-worth.
- 85% of participants reported improved communications at home and with family members.
- 88% of participants reported an increase in their ability to make a positive contribution in their school and community.



## PADRES PARENTING PROGRAMS

**Padres Parenting Programs** provide year-round comprehensive programming to empower Latino parents with the tools necessary to support their children's education, and raise healthy, well-adjusted children who will contribute to their communities.

Padres Parenting Programs are parenting education and support programs offered in Spanish to Latino parents in the Twin Cities metro area. Weekly parenting education and support groups use a culturally specific curriculum that is based on solid parenting education research both at the local and national levels. The program helps Latino parents learn positive parenting techniques that improve their parenting skills and abilities. La Oportunidad also provides parents with tools to navigate their children's educational system. Through community workshops, visibility in the media, peer parent mentors, individual referrals and guidance, and assistance in parent-teacher conferences, La Oportunidad facilitates parental involvement to encourage children's educational success.



## 2007 OUTCOMES

- In 2007, Padres direct programming served 270 Twin Cities Latino parents; numerous additional parents received assistance through partnerships, indirect outreach, and short-term events.
- 98% of participants successfully completed the program.
- 95% of respondents developed positive parenting skills and reported applying them in their families.
- 100% of respondents developed a stronger parenting support system in the community.
- 98% of respondents reported improved family relationships.
- 92% of the parents who participated in the Padres Parenting Program increased participation in their children's education.

## LATINOS ENDING ABUSE PROGRAM

The Latinos Ending Abuse Program (LEAP) helps Latino adults to learn and apply skills to end violent behavior in their relationships, families, and communities. Participants in LEAP receive education and support that address cultural perspectives and factors surrounding patterns of violence and abuse. This program acknowledges the importance of targeting the causes of abuse while providing education and tools to promote non-violent behaviors. The program has been very successful in providing adult offenders with the tools to develop healthy relationships.

La Oportunidad is currently the only organization in the state offering culturally-appropriate domestic violence classes in Spanish for Latino adults and is committed to meeting the rapidly growing need for domestic violence education in the Latino community. LEAP works closely with counties and correctional systems in the metro area to serve Latino offenders and reduce/eliminate domestic violence in the Twin Cities metro area. By providing linguistically and culturally appropriate domestic violence services to Latino offenders, La Oportunidad continues to work to eliminate domestic abuse not only within the Latino community but also in the greater community as well.



### 2007 OUTCOMES

- The LEAP program served 215 Latino adults.
- 92% of participants successfully completed the program.
- 93% of participants reported increased understanding of domestic violence and the impact on the family.
- 92% of participants reported applying learned concepts and skills as an alternative to domestic violence.
- 89% of participants reported improved family relationships.
- 91% of participants did not re-offend after completion of the program.

## CONTRIBUTORS, SUPPORTERS, AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

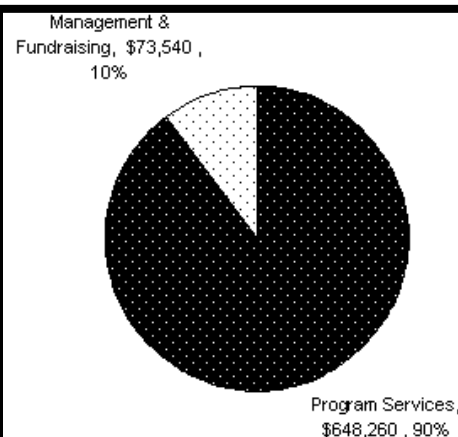
### Foundation & Corporation Support

Ameriprise Financial  
 Anonymous  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota  
 Carlson Companies  
 Carolyn Foundation  
 Charlson Foundation  
 ClearWay Minnesota  
 Comcast  
 Elmer & Eleanor Andersen Foundation  
 Grotto Foundation  
 Hispanics in Philanthropy  
 Imation Corporation  
 International Association Truancy & Dropout Prevention  
 Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation  
 Kopp Family Foundation  
 Management Improvement Fund  
 Marbrook Foundation  
 McKnight Foundation  
 Medica  
 Minneapolis Foundation  
 Otto Bremer Foundation  
 Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation  
 Pohlad Family Foundation  
 Prudential Foundation Matching Gift Program  
 RBC Dain Rauscher  
 Target Foundation  
 The Sheltering Arms Foundation  
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
 UCare Minnesota  
 US Bank

### Government, School, and Other Support

Andersen Open K-8 School  
 Bloomington Public Schools  
 City of Minneapolis Empowerment Zone  
 Combined Federal Campaign  
 Dakota County, Corrections  
 Folwell Middle School  
 Greater Twin Cities United Way  
 Hennepin County, Children and Families  
 Hennepin County, Corrections  
 Hennepin County, Truancy Initiatives  
 Highland Park High School  
 Jefferson K-8 School  
 R. Green Central K-8 School  
 Ramsey County, Corrections  
 Richfield Middle School  
 Robbinsdale Area Schools  
 Sanford Middle School  
 State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety  
 Target Donor Designated Funds  
 Valley View K-8 School  
 Wellstone International High School  
 Whittier Elementary School

	2007		2006	
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$ 457,422	61%	\$ 415,193	55%
Government Service Fees	\$ 198,376	26%	\$ 233,800	31%
All Other Revenues	\$ 99,741	13%	\$ 101,010	14%
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 755,539</b>		<b>\$ 750,003</b>	
Program Services	\$ 648,260	90%	\$ 594,099	89%
Management & Fundraising	\$ 73,540	10%	\$ 71,765	11%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 721,800</b>		<b>\$ 665,864</b>	
Change in Net Assets	\$ 33,739		\$ 84,139	
Beginning Net Assets	\$ 365,694		\$ 281,555	
<b>Net Assets Ending</b>	<b>\$ 399,433</b>		<b>\$ 365,694</b>	



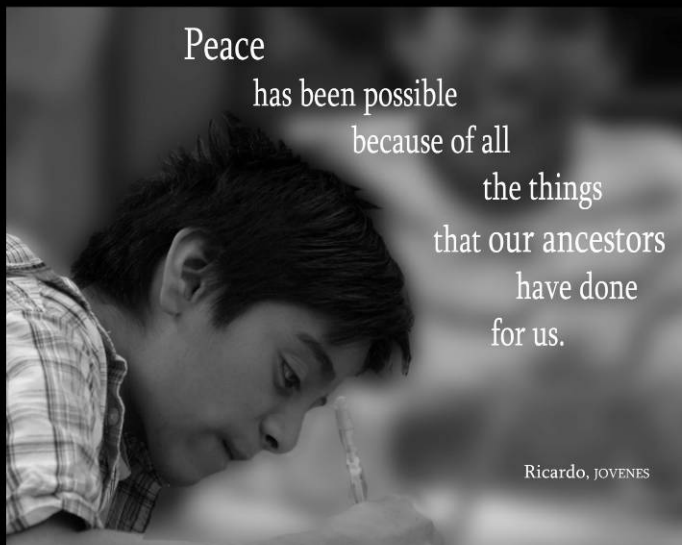


### In-Kind Contributions

Aallways Associates and Christopher Rickenberger  
Ben & Jerry's Calhoun Commons Scoop Shop & Scott Eller  
Brisas Latinas and KFAI radio  
Bruegger's Bagels  
El Nuevo Rodeo  
Farmer's Hat Productions and Katherine Fitzsimmons  
Full Cycle and Matt Tennant  
Google, Inc.  
Guthrie Theater  
KFAI radio  
Kowalski's Market  
La Hacienda Restaurant  
La Loma Tamales  
Latino Communications Network  
Los Nativos  
Medica  
Minneapolis Community & Technical College  
Minnesota Twins  
National Latino Peace Officers' Association, MN Chapter  
Ordway Theater  
Patagonia  
R.E.I.  
Science Museum of Minnesota  
The Wedge Natural Foods Co-op  
Trinity Building Services and Ken Gilbert  
Valspar  
Weed and Seed  
YWCA  
Eduardo Bernal  
Emmett Timmons  
Javier Rodriguez Gaitan  
Jim Andersen  
Rebecca Pottebaum  
Tom Casmer

### Individual Donors

Anonymous  
Demian Arenas  
Bernice Arias-Sather  
D. A. Armstrong  
Pamela Augustin  
Pamela Barragan  
Tiffany Calderon  
Lourdes Cancel Rodriguez  
Maxine Caskinette  
Brenda Cornejo  
Courtney Costigan  
Monica DeCastro  
Eloisa Echavez  
Pamela J. Erickson  
Linda Freeman  
Stephanie Fuerniss  
Alexander Gonzalez  
Maria Gonzalez-O'Brien  
Emily Gutierrez  
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Timothy Ikeman  
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Alice Jasinski  
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Margaret Kohn  
Cathleen Krier  
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Charisse Litteken  
Julissa Medrano  
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William and Diane Nelson  
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Jill Trites  
David & Lynn Vander Haar  
Maximino Vergara  
Cynthia Webster  
Julie L. Wedewer  
Eric Wengreen  
Kimberly K. Wilson



### Current Board of Directors

**Alex González, President**

*Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*

**Maria Gonzalez-O'Brien, Vice President**

*Ameriprise Financial*

**María Ramírez Johnson, Secretary**

*Retired Mpls Public Schools Teacher*

**William Nelson, Treasurer**

*Volunteers of America*

**Pamela Barragán**

*St. Paul Police Department*

**Linda Freemon**

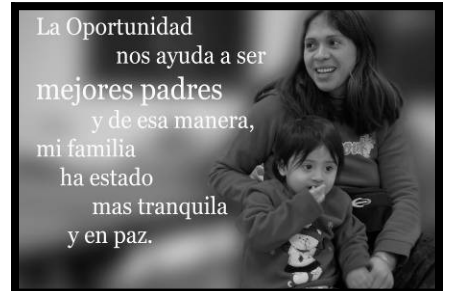
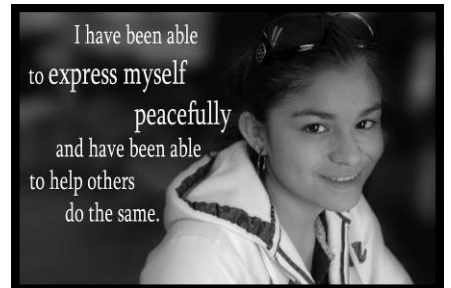
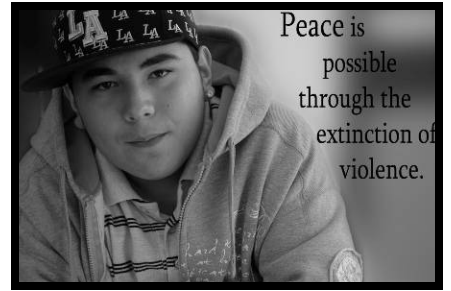
*eV3*

**Stacy Rose Janisch**

*Neighborhood House*

**Sarah Smith**

*Medtronic*



### Board Advisors

**Eduardo Bernal Díaz**

*Community Volunteer*

**Katherine Fitzsimmons**

*Ameriprise Financial*

**Sandra Vargas**

*The Minneapolis Foundation*

**Elsa Vega-Pérez**

*Formerly of Bremer Foundation*

### Current Staff

**Haley Buenzli, Volunteer Coordinator-Program Assistant**

**Megan Craig-Casmer, Program Coordinator**

**Eloisa Echávez, Executive Director**

**Alicia Howes, Program Coordinator**

**Carla Miller, Finance Coordinator**

**Hugo Muñoz, Program Director**

**Teofilo Nuñez, Program Coordinator**

**Maria Silvia Pichardo, Program Coordinator**

**Aileen Seoane, Director of Fund Development**

**Maureen Springer, Program Coordinator**

**Maria Vallejo, Program Coordinator**

**José Luis Villaseñor, Program Coordinator**

### Mentors

Diana Berlinerblau

Olga Maria Fernandez Solivan

Janice Kalien

Kirsten "Atzin" Ketter

Anne Knauff

Luis Player-Delgado

Natalia Pretelt

Giovanni Ramos

Jennifer Reidy

Christopher Romano

Simon Sanchez

Lilia Serna

Maureen Springer

Catie Watson



## STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2008-2010

As a result of its comprehensive Strategic Planning process, La Oportunidad has revamped its mission, vision, values, and created key goals through 2010.

La Oportunidad **envisions** a community in which Latinos, whether long-term residents or new arrivals, thrive and contribute to the strength of the greater community.

La Oportunidad's **mission** is to champion the development of Latino individuals and families to create a strong, peaceful community.

### VALUES

- **Celebrating Culture.** We believe that a strong cultural identity promotes individual health and adds vibrancy to community life.
- **Promoting Peace.** We believe people can learn nonviolent strategies that allow relationships, families, and communities to thrive.
- **Pride.** We take pride in La Oportunidad as the center where culture flourishes and creative solutions to Latino needs are nurtured.

### GOALS

- La Oportunidad will increase its **visibility** as the "go-to" organization for policy-makers, funders, and others seeking services, resources, or information for and about the Latino community.
- La Oportunidad will ensure appropriate **physical space** that aligns with programming needs.
- La Oportunidad will increase its capacity by expanding its **pool of supporters**.
- La Oportunidad will increase its involvement in **public policy** on behalf of the Latino community.





La Oportunidad, Inc.

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Community Partner

