

# Summer 2017

## La Oportunidad Inc.



*Serving the Twin Cities since 1987*



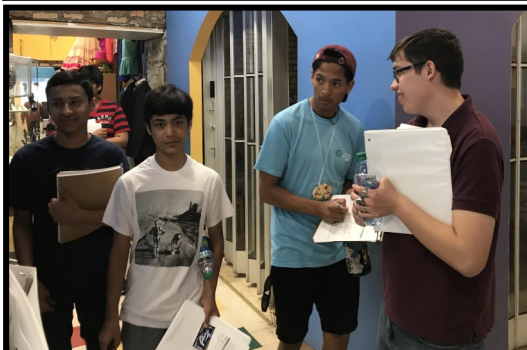
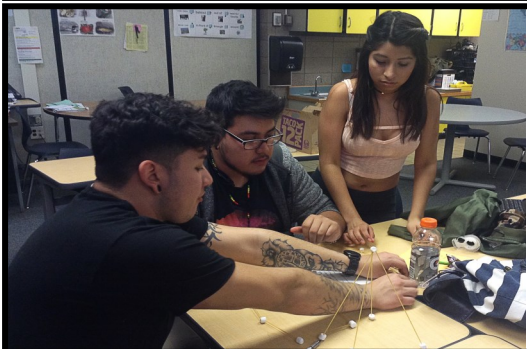
### LATINO POWER Summer Youth Program

We launched a new and exciting summer youth program, **LATINO POWER**, that focuses on *empowering Latino students to become the future public servants and community leaders of Minnesota.*

Our program, endorsed by the Minnesota Governor's Chief Inclusion Officer, has teamed up with local leaders and community organizations to inspire our young Latino leaders. *Latino Power* started in mid June and will run until August.

During the start, student ambassadors have organized community service projects to strengthen their community in Minnesota. They have spoken with local residents, business owners, and politicians to plan and implement more comprehensive and effective projects.

The group of students is breaking barriers and defying stereotypes as well as increasing the voice of the Latino community.





## Latino Youth Leadership Conference

On May 12, 2017, 273 youth and 58 adults gathered at Augsburg College for La Oportunidad's annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference. The theme the Youth Planning Committee selected for this year's conference was social action/activism. They gave the 2017 conference the title "El Pueblo Unido" (*The People United*). In the words of planning committee member and high school student Jennifer Meza Mendoza, the reason the youth committee chose the theme was "to emphasize the power that we as youth have. We have a voice and we can use it to create change for others and ourselves around us. We want youth to learn how to take action in their communities and know they are not alone. We can all unite to fight discrimination, racism, and any form of injustice."

Highlights from the day's festivities included a powerful keynote address and spoken word performance by Denice Frohman, nationally-acclaimed award-winning poet, writer, performer and educator, along with twelve interactive workshop breakout sessions facilitated by local Latino leaders and activists (both youth and adult). Workshops topics included themes such as: speaking up and using your voice, Latino representation in the media, identity and intersectionality, Latino sheroes and heroes, social movements, how to create change, sharing your story through poetry and spoken word, activism through art and music, hip hop as a catalyst for social transformation, and reclaiming our roots for social change. Other highlights from the day's program included dance performances by Mexica/Aztec dance and drum circle Kalpulli Yaocenox-tli and bboy crew Phaze II, as well as a dance to cap off the day's festivities.

89% of youth participants expressed an increase in cultural pride or connection to their culture, 86% expressed an increased sense of and capacity for leadership, and 92% expressed an increase in skills, knowledge and/or positive attitudes in at least one of the following areas: self, relationships, education, and/or community. Some of the things that youth participants said they were taking away from the conference were: "to be proud of who I am", "not to be afraid to express myself", "our voices matter", "knowing more about my culture", "stand up for what we believe is right", "leadership skills", and "we are strongest united".

The success of this day-long event was the result of a labor of love from the 23 members of the Youth Planning Committee. The planning committee, made up of high school Latino youth leaders and mentors, started meeting in October 2016, and met for two hours weekly over the course of eight months to plan all conference elements under the guidance and support of La Oportunidad's Latino Youth Program Coordinator. A huge thank you to our sponsors: Augsburg College, Youthprise, East Minneapolis Exchange Club, McDonalds, and Mall of America. The conference would not be possible without your support!



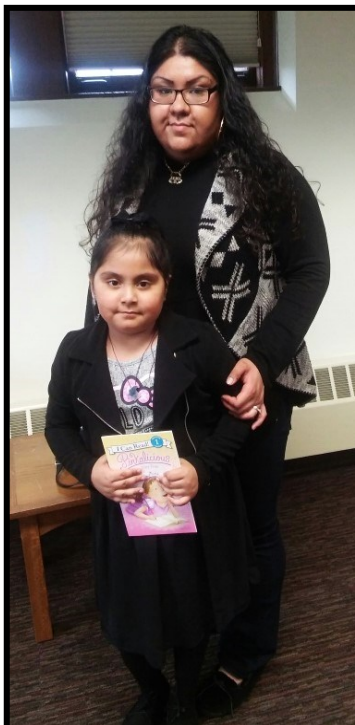
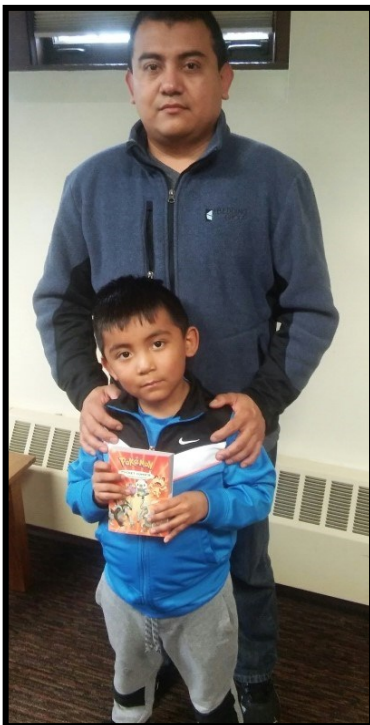


## El Camino Students Celebrate International Children's Day

La Oportunidad collaborated once again with Hennepin County Library to organize an International Children's Day celebration for El Camino program participants and their families. The event took place on April 29th at Hosmer Library and lasted two hours. The students and families participated in and enjoyed an art activity facilitated by the Teen Tech Squad and a live music show.

The purpose of this event was to foster greater participation by parents in the services and programming of the library so that their children can become in regularly library users. At the closing of the event, each student received a free library card and two books for their participation in the celebration.

La Oportunidad enthusiastically promotes the participation of Latino families in events such as Children's Day at Hennepin County Library, which connect families with community resources.



### **Benefiting the Entire Family and Community!**

La Oportunidad's diverse programming helps Latinos of all ages achieve success. Latino children and youth are provided culturally enriched education that promotes positive attitudes and fundamental life skills. Teens and young adults develop leadership skills, explore cultural identity and plan for education and future careers. Programs for Latino parents deliver positive techniques to enhance parenting skills, maintain a stable home life and support their children's education. Other programs for Latino adults offer assistance in domestic abuse intervention and prevention. Specific programs include:

**El Camino (The Path) — Grades K-5**

**Youth Leadership — Grades 6-12**

**Padres — Parents**

**Jóvenes Profesionales/Young Professionals**

**Early Literacy**

**Latinos Ending Abuse Program**

**Latino Power Youth Summer Program**

To learn more about La Oportunidad and our programs,  
visit our website, Facebook page or give us a call at 612-872-6165



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### **Our Website**

Check out our website, **[www.oportunidad.com](http://www.oportunidad.com)**, to find information about our staff, programs, accomplishments and more. You can also access our 2016 annual report online, which has a fresh new look this year! Take a look and learn more about La Oportunidad.

### **Facebook**

Want to stay caught up on everything going on at La Oportunidad? Check out our Facebook page to get program and organization updates, receive invitations to special events and activities and see who else likes what we do!

**[www.facebook.com/laoportunidadinc](http://www.facebook.com/laoportunidadinc)**

### **Help Support La Oportunidad**

If you'd like to help us make the Twin Cities a stronger and more peaceful community, take a look at our website's donation page, **<http://oportunidad.org/donate/>**, where you will find information regarding donations, sponsorships and our matching program. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the help of our generous sponsors and donors. Please contribute!