

La Oportunidad, Inc.

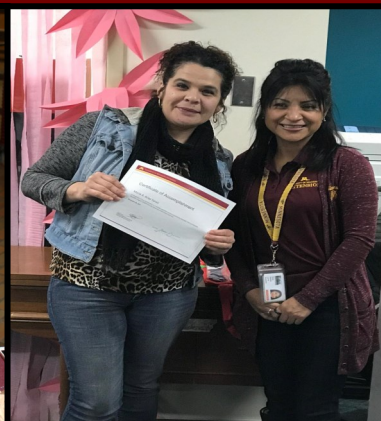
Annual Report 2017



*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 **(829 in 2017)** 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 enjoys 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, Jefferson Elementary School, Richard R. Green School, Sanford Middle School, Wellstone International High School, Washburn High School and Whittier International Elementary School.**

Additional Partners in 2017 include:

Augsburg College

Community Design Group

Hennepin County Library

Hopkins North Junior High School

Lincoln International High School

Latino Economic Development Center

Minneapolis Television Network (MTN)

Minnesota History Center

Minnesota Literacy Council/Open Door Learning

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

North Park Elementary School

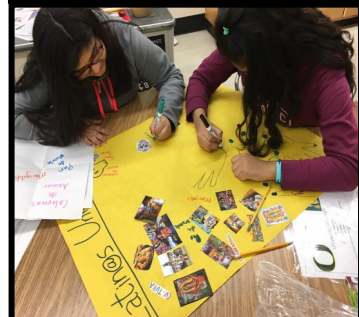
Pope John Paul II Catholic School

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,

As we welcome a new year with opportunities to continue our mission to champion the development of Latino individuals and families in our community, we celebrate our many accomplishments during 2017; which includes the creation of Latino Power, a new youth summer program.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed with their time, talents, energy, and financial resources to our organization to help us advance ***our vision of a community in which all Latinos thrive and contribute to the strength of the greater community***. We look forward to yet another successful year in 2018!

William Nelson and Eloísa Echávez

Current Board of Directors

William Nelson, President

Retired Manager, Volunteers of America

Brian Grande, Vice-President

Business Operations Analyst II, TCF Bank

Anne Knauff, Secretary

Retired Design Manager

Humberto Olivares, Treasurer

Regional Private Banker, Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

Bernice Arias

Manager, Central Licensing Unit, Securian Financial Group

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Rosalinda ("Rosi") Armendariz

Cultural Liaison/Office Manager, Lincoln International High School

Pamela Barragán

Commander, St. Paul Police Department

Linda Freemon

Sr. Buyer, Minnetronix, Inc.

María Ramírez Johnson

Retired Minneapolis Public Schools Teacher

Current Staff

Eloísa Echávez

Executive Director

Adrian Diaz

Young Professionals Program Coordinator

Carla Miller

Finance Coordinator

Elizabet Vargas

Office Manager and Program Coordinator

Teofilo Nuñez

LEAP and Parents Program Coordinator

Cedar Weyker

Latino Youth Program Coordinator

Thank you to all of our volunteers in 2017

Alan Galarza

Anahi Gil

Anastacia Belladona-Carrera

Bianco Bernardo

Brandon Martinez

Carla Yunga

Craig Litsey

Danna Salinas

David Echavez-Valdez

David Jara

David Torres

Erik Chavez

Erik Garcia

Jacqueline Osorio

Jason Enriquez Aragon

Jennifer Meza Mendoza

Jordan Ceballos

Kaily Ceballos

Karina Briones

Lisbeth Gutierrez

Luis Martinez

Maria Rios

Marlen Rodriguez

Marian Garcia

Maricruz Lozano Rios

Michael Pliego

Ruth Meza

Sandy Canseco

Ulises Vargas

Wendy Sanchez

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 2017, El Camino served **81** children. Program outcomes include:

100% Increased positive feelings about themselves and their identity

100% Increased awareness of the importance of family and culture

100% Improved relationships with peers, friends and family members

88% 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. 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 2017, the program served **166** Latino youth. Program outcomes include:

100% Increased participation in their education and life goals

85% Increased sense of self-esteem and self-worth

90% Improved relationships with peers, family members and others

85% Increased capacity for leadership and/or ability to make a positive contribution to their community



Annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference:

On May 12, **2017**, **273** youth and **58** adults gathered at Augsburg College for La Oportunidad's 17th Annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference. The theme the Youth Planning Committee selected for the conference was social action/activism and the title was "El Pueblo Unido" (The People United). Highlights from the day's program 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 (both youth and adult).



Other highlights of the event 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 programming.

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.

The success of this day-long event was the result of a labor of love from the **23** members of the Youth Planning Committee. 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!

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 2017**, the program served **91 youth**. Program outcomes include:



95% Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests

100% Identified required education and skills needed to pursue their career path

89% Developed a plan to fulfill their short and long-term career goals

100% 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 2017, the Padres Program served **130** parents. Program outcomes include:

100% Developed positive parenting skills, applied them at home, and improved family relationships

80% Increased participation in their children's education

91% Developed a stronger parenting support system in the community

75% 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 2017, the Latinos Ending Abuse Program served **156** Latino adults. Program outcomes include:

87% Increased understanding of the impact of domestic violence on the family

88% Practiced concepts and skills shared in class as alternatives to violence and improved family relationships

85% 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). "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) 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 2257 donated hours have a value of **\$49,428.3** 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.



2017 Outcomes: La Oportunidad would not have the reach and impact that we do without the partnership and commitment of our volunteers. In 2017, **44** volunteers contributed 2257 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 **23** high school students who met weekly for ten months.

LATINO POWER Youth Summer Program

In the summer of 2017, our organization launched a new and exciting summer youth program, "LATINO POWER," that focuses on empowering Latino students to become the future public servants and community organizers/leaders of Minnesota. Our program, endorsed by the Minnesota Governor's Office of Inclusion, has teamed up with local leaders and community organizations to inspire our young Latino leaders. Latino Power started in mid-June and run until August. The program met every Thursday and worked on community projects in between these meetings. During the start, the 12-15 program



participants (ambassadors) organized community service projects to strengthen their community in Minnesota. The mayor event they organized was "Latinos en Acción," which focused on creating discussion about current barriers Latinos face living in Minnesota. The event was inclusive to people of all races and ethnicities. The event attended by 125 community members was held at Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis on August 20, 2017. This location was selected because it is near East Lake Street and it is a popular destination within the community. In collaboration with local partners, students developed a Spanish engagement toolkit that offered participants the opportunity to give their opinions about positive things that exist in their community, as well as the challenges and barriers they face. Latino Power students fully facilitated the engagement activities and event. They have also spoken with local residents, business owners, and politicians to plan and implement additional community projects. This group of students is breaking barriers and defying stereotypes as well as increasing the voice of the Latino community.

En Familia T.V. Show

Created by E&B Productions, En Familia (Among Family) is a Spanish-language television program in its ninth 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:

- ~ Maria Rios, Ulises Vargas, and Adrian Diaz, Jr., La Oportunidad's Latino Power Youth Summer Program.
- ~ Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera, Common Cause MN.
- ~ Teo Nunez, La Oportunidad's Parenting and Violence Prevention & intervention Programming.
- ~ 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.

Contributors, Supporters, and Financial Information

Foundation and Corporate Support

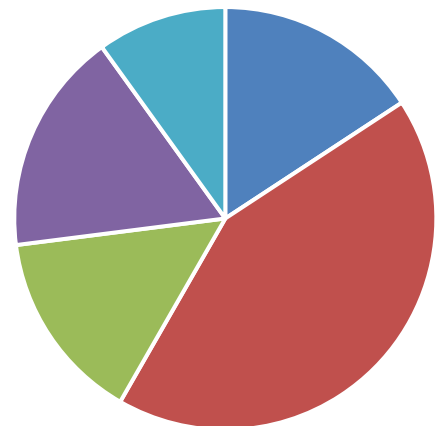
<i>Elmer & Eleanor Andersen Foundation</i>	<i>Minneapolis Foundation/Solidarity MN</i>	<i>Pohlad Family Foundation</i>
<i>Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation</i>	<i>MN Comeback/ Minneapolis Foundation Fund</i>	<i>Schulze Family Foundation</i>
<i>Carolyn Foundation</i>	<i>McDonald's</i>	<i>Sexton Family Foundation</i>
<i>East Minneapolis Exchange Club</i>	<i>Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation</i>	<i>Thomson Reuters Foundation</i>
<i>Hispanic Heritage Foundation</i>	<i>Otto Bremer Foundation</i>	<i>James R. Thorpe Foundation</i>
<i>Kopp Family Foundation</i>	<i>Perrigo Company Foundation</i>	<i>Warren Foundation</i>
<i>Mall of America</i>		<i>Youthprise</i>

United Way, Government and School Support

<i>Dakota Community Corrections</i>	<i>Hennepin HSPH: Child Protection</i>	<i>Schools:</i>
<i>Greater Twin Cities United Way</i>	<i>MN Department of Public Safety</i>	- <i>Minneapolis Public Schools/Community Education</i>
<i>Hennepin Community Corrections</i>		- <i>Hopkins North Jr. High School</i>

	2017		2016	
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$223,926	52.4%	\$206,884	49%
Government Service Fees	\$116,699	27.3%	\$124,929	29%
All Other Revenues	\$86,512	20.3%	\$92,625	22%
Total Support & Revenue	\$427,137		\$424,438	
El Camino Program	\$67,172	15.8%	\$70,106	17%
Latino Youth Program	\$181,121	42.5%	\$159,108	38%
Padres Program	\$62,576	14.7%	\$83,057	20%
Latinos Ending Abuse Program	\$72,659	17.0%	\$66,443	16%
Programs Subtotal	\$383,528	90.0%	\$378,714	91%
Management & Fundraising	\$42,366	10.0%	\$36,870	9%
Total Expenses	\$425,894		\$415,584	
Total Assests	\$471,014		\$398,520	
Total Liabilities	\$19,994		\$17,503	
Change in Net Assets	\$1,243		\$8,654	
Beginning Net Assets	\$329,892		\$321,238	
Net Assets Ending	\$331,135		\$329,892	

2017 Expense Chart



- El Camino Program, \$67,172-15.8%
- Latino Youth Programs, \$181,121-42.5%
- Padres Program, \$62,576-14.7%
- Latinos Ending Abuse Program, \$72,659-17%
- Management & Fundraising, \$42,366-10%

Contributors and Supporters

Individual Donors		
<i>Dean A. and Debra A. Armstrong</i>	<i>Craig and Marianna Litsey</i>	<i>Jorge Ulate-Rodriguez</i>
<i>ANONYMOUS</i>	<i>Alex Ludescher</i>	<i>John L. Romano</i>
<i>Linda Freeman</i>	<i>Anne Knauff</i>	<i>Arthur Schultz</i>
<i>Brian Grande</i>	<i>Diane L. and William F. Nelson</i>	<i>Fernando Soto</i>
<i>Eloisa Echavez</i>	<i>Humberto Olivares</i>	<i>Eric Vega</i>
<i>Maria and Lloyd Johnson</i>	<i>Alice Pena</i>	<i>Andrea Villeda</i>
Corporate Employee Donors		
<i>Ameriprise Financial</i>	<i>Network for Good</i>	<i>Thrivent Choice Program</i>
<i>The Benevity Community Impact Fund</i>	<i>Prudential Foundation</i>	<i>Truist, Inc</i>
<i>General Mills Foundation</i>	<i>TCF Foundation</i>	<i>Vanguardia Charitable</i>
	<i>The K Foundation</i>	<i>United Way Donation</i>
In-Kind Contributions		
<i>Augsburg College Student Affairs</i>	<i>Target</i>	
<i>Chipotle</i>	<i>The Hub Bike Cop</i>	
<i>Mall of America</i>	<i>Raising Canes</i>	
<i>Starbucks</i>	<i>Wet Paint</i>	



This list includes contributions from January 1, 2017-December 31, 2017 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!



La Oportunidad Inc.

2700 E Lake Street, Suite 3100

Minneapolis, MN 55406

Annual Report 2017

*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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