

La Oportunidad, Inc.

Annual Report 2018



*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 (**830 in 2018**) 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!

Our organization 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, in 2018 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 2018 include:

Augsburg University

Hennepin County Library

Hopkins North Junior High School

Latino Access Foundation

Lincoln International High School

Latino Economic Development Center

Minneapolis Television Network (MTN)

MN Department of Natural Resources & National Wildlife Refuge

Minnesota Governor's Office of Inclusion

Minnesota History Center

Minnesota Literacy Council/Open Door Learning

North Park Elementary School

University of Minnesota

Urban Outreach

Urban Ventures

Youth Intervention Programs Association



A Message from the Board President and the Executive Director

Dear Friends and supporters 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 2018. Among them, the continued success and impact of our children, youth, and adult (parenting and domestic violence) programs, the second year of our Latino Power Youth Summer Program, the overwhelming popularity of our Annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference, and our community Spanish T.V. show *En Familia* ("Among Family")

We deeply appreciate 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 rewarding year in 2019!

Humberto Olivares and Eloísa Echávez

Current Board of Directors

Humberto Olivares, President

Investment Management Specialist, Wells Fargo Private Bank

Anne Knauff, Vice-President

Retired Design Manager

Brian Grande, Secretary

Reporting Analyst, OPTUM

William Nelson, Treasurer

Retired Manager, Volunteers of America

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

Retired (Health Industry)

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Current Staff

Eloísa Echávez

Executive Director

Carla Miller

Finance Coordinator

Elizabeth Vargas

Office Manager and Program Coordinator

Adrian Diaz

Latino Youth Leadership Conference Coordinator

Teo Nuñez

LEAP and Parents Program Coordinator

Caroline Stevens

Young Professional Program Coordinator

Samantha Weiss

Latino Youth Program Coordinator

Thank you to all of our volunteers in 2018

Alan Galarza

Alejandra Acevedo

Ambar Christina Hanson

Augustus Barron

Bianco Bernardo

Brandon Martinez

David Torres

Emanuel Nunez

Erik Garcia

Jennifer Meza Mendoza

Jordan Ceballos

Juliete Piox

Kaily Ceballos

Karen Delgado

Maria Rios

Marisa Newel

Michael Pliego

Ray Ruiz

Sandy Canseco

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 2018, El Camino positively impacted **76** children through our school-based **after-school groups (69)** and **summer programming (7)**. Some of the program outcomes include:

100% Increased positive feelings about themselves and their identity.

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

97% 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.

An additional 49 children participated in multicultural workshops.

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.

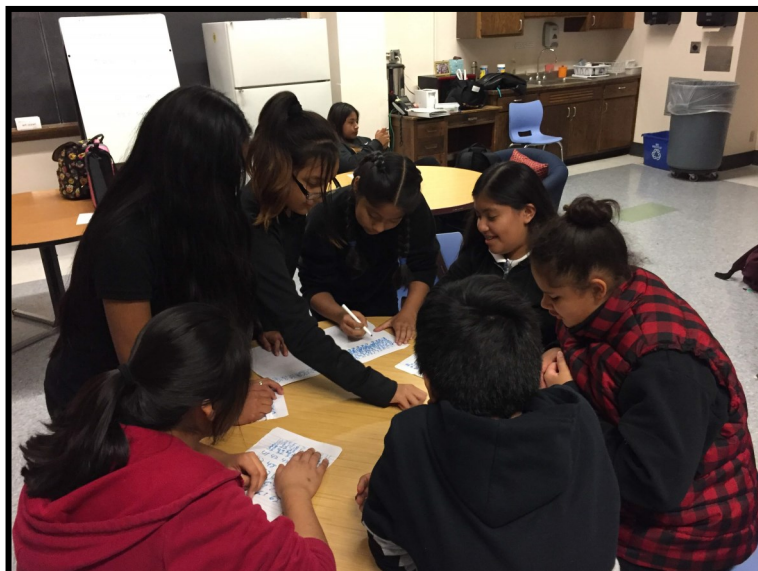
School-based program: In 2018, the program served **123** Latino youth. Program outcomes include:

87% Increased participation in their education and life goals

98% Increased sense of self-esteem and self-worth

92% Improved relationships with peers, family members and others

88% Increased capacity for leadership and/or ability to make a positive contribution to their community



Annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference:

Latino Youth Leadership Conference: On May 11, 2018, 263 area youth and 64 adults (school personnel, mentors, community leaders) gathered at Augsburg University for a day-long event to share cultural pride, learn and apply new skills and explore ways to build peace in their lives and communities. Health was the theme selected by the Youth Planning Committee. The Committee titled the 2018 Conference, “Cuidame, Cuídate” (Take Care of Me, Take Care of You). Topics ranged from understanding stereotypes that exist within Latino culture and the ways they affect us, and exploring healthy relationships.



85% of youth participants expressed an increase in cultural pride, 84% expressed an increase sense of and capacity for leadership, and 85% expressed an increase in skills, knowledge and/or positive attitudes in at least one of the following areas: self, relationships, education, and/or community. 100% of school chaperones mentioned they were happy with the event.

The LYLC Youth Planning Committee is the heart and soul of the Conference. Representing many different schools from the Twin Cities, the Committee (comprised of students, mentors, intern, and the Lead Conference Coordinator) meets from August to May to plan all aspects of this unique event. The goal of the Committee is to plan an exciting and inspiring event for other young Latinxs.

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 2018, the program served **92** youth. Program outcomes include:

- 97%** Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests
- 99%** Identified required education and skills needed to pursue their career path
- 92%** 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.

Additional activities offered by our youth programs in 2018 include:

- ~ Tours to the Mpls Community & technical College (2 separate groups), attended by 18 youth.
- ~ Fieldtrip to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, attended by 11 youth.
- ~ Fieldtrip to Minnehaha Falls, attended by 5 youth .
- ~ Visit to and interview of business owners on Lake Street, Mpls. attended by 8 youth.
- ~ Fieldtrips to the Animal Humane Society (2 separate groups), attended by 18 youth.
- ~ Fieldtrip to the Midtown Global Market, Minneapolis, attended by 11 youth.
- ~ Volunteerism at Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly, Minneapolis, attended by 13 youth.



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 **2018**, the Padres Program positively impacted **104 parents** through our weekly sessions (58) and/or specialized workshops (46). Some of the program outcomes include:

- 100%** Developed positive parenting skills, applied them at home, and improved family relationships.
- 95%** Increased participation in their children's education.
- 90%** Developed a stronger parenting support system in the community.
- 85%** 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).

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 **2018**, LEAP positively impacted **123** Latino adults. Some of the program outcomes include:

91% Increased understanding of the impact of domestic violence on the family.

92% Practiced concepts and skills shared in class as alternatives to violence and improved family relationships.

90% 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 1132 donated hours have a value of \$24,791 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.



2018 Outcomes: La Oportunidad would not have the reach and impact that we do without the partnership and commitment of our volunteers. In 2018, **27** volunteers contributed 1132 hours of their time and energy to our programs. This includes after school program assistants, Board members and our Youth Leadership Conference planning committee members.

LATINO POWER Youth Summer Program

The main goal of this program is to expose Latino youth to the power they have in their communities and how they can become positive change agents in our society.

In 2018, the second year of the program, 12 youth participated. This year's focus was on educating young about environmental contamination, food insecurity and health issues, transportation and mobility, lack of access to outdoor recreation, housing inequity, negative stereotypes, and inactive community members. Additionally, the group learned about local resources and organizations they can access to overcome their barriers.

The youth also participated in numerous activities to learn more about these topics. Participants collected water samples from Lake Bde Maka Ska and Lake Nokomis and conducted water tests using kits they can access again in the future. They discussed the importance of public transit in their communities and went on a bike ride using MN Nice Ride bicycles, to Minnehaha Falls and Mercado Central to explore the existing infrastructure for biking. To celebrate Latino Conservation Week, the group went hiking at the National Wildlife Refuge and canoeing at Fort Snelling State Park, and learned about the different outdoor recreation opportunities these locations offer year-round.



En Familia T.V. Show

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

- ~ Ray Ruiz, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Hunting Skills for Latinos
- ~ Elizabet Vargas, La Oportunidad's Volunteer and Children's Programs
- ~ Ambar Cristina Hanson, An overview of Hiawatha Academies
- ~ Julieta Piox and Karen Delgado, Latina Youth Leadership Academy, Latina Youth Mentoring Program
- ~ 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, 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

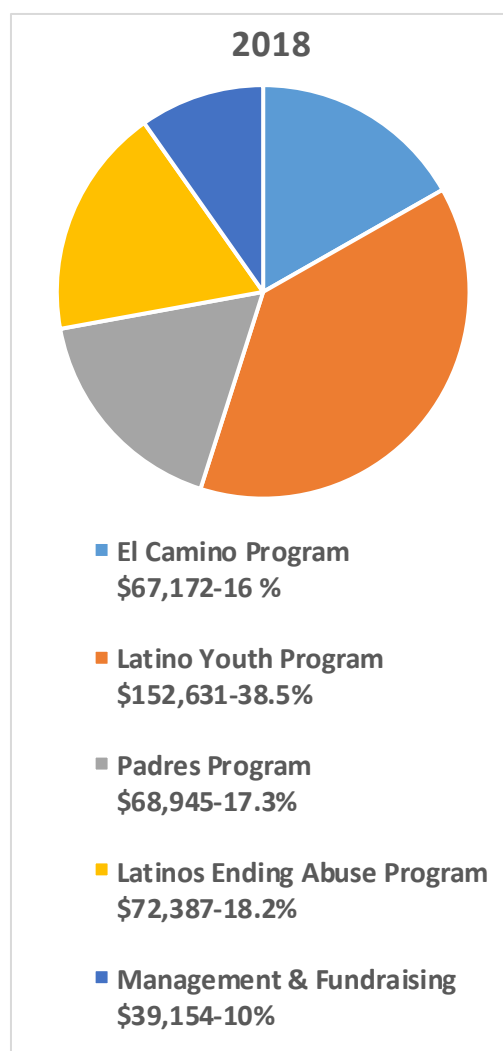
Foundation and Corporate Support

<i>Elmer & Eleanor Andersen Foundation</i>	<i>3M, ERN Community Champions Program</i>	<i>Propel for Nonprofits</i>
<i>Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation</i>	<i>Mall of America</i>	<i>Sexton Family Foundation</i>
<i>Carolyn Foundation</i>	<i>McDonald's Corporation</i>	<i>Thomson Reuters Foundation</i>
<i>Catholic Community Foundation</i>	<i>Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation</i>	<i>James R. Thorpe Foundation</i>
<i>East Minneapolis Exchange Club</i>	<i>Otto Bremer Foundation</i>	<i>Vanguard Charitable</i>
<i>Kopp Family Foundation</i>	<i>Perrigo Company Foundation</i>	<i>Warren Foundation</i>
		<i>Youthprise</i>

Government

<i>Dakota Community Corrections</i>	<i>Hennepin HSPH: Child Protection</i>
<i>Hennepin Community Corrections</i>	<i>MN Department of Public Safety</i>

	2018		2017	
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$225,039	55.7%	\$223,926	52.4%
Government Service Fees	\$111,164	27.5%	\$116,699	27.3%
All Other Revenues	\$68,051	16.8%	\$86,512	20.3%
Total Support & Revenue	\$404,254		\$427,137	
El Camino Program	\$63,330	16%	\$67,172	15.8%
Latino Youth Program	\$152,631	38.5%	\$181,121	42.5%
Padres Program	\$68,945	17.3%	\$62,576	14.7%
Latinos Ending Abuse Program	\$72,387	18.2%	\$72,659	17%
Programs Subtotal	\$357,292	90%	\$383,528	90%
Management & Fundraising	\$39,154	10%	\$42,366	10%
Total Expenses	\$396,446		\$425,894	
Total Assets	\$424,565		\$471,014	
Total Liabilities	\$16,737		\$19,994	
Change in Net Assets	\$7,808		\$1,243	
Beginning Net Assets	\$331,135		\$329,892	
Net Assets Ending	\$338,943		\$331,135	



Contributors and Supporters

Individual Donors		
<i>Christopher Ackerman</i>	<i>Eloisa Echavez</i>	<i>Anne Knauff</i>
<i>Bernice Arias</i>	<i>Linda Freemon</i>	<i>Diane L. and William F. Nelson</i>
<i>Dean A. and Debra A. Armstrong</i>	<i>Brian Grande</i>	<i>Humberto Olivares</i>
<i>ANONYMOUS</i>	<i>Ana Mariella Iglesias Solo</i>	<i>John L. Romano</i>
Schools		
<i>Minneapolis Public Schools/Community Education</i>		<i>Hopkins North Jr. High School</i>
Greater Twin Cities United Way Donor Choice/ Corporate Employee Donors		
<i>Fairview Health Services</i>		<i>The Toro Company</i>
<i>Securian Financial Group</i>		<i>TCF Foundation</i>
In-Kind Contributions		
<i>Augsburg University Student Affairs</i>		<i>McDonalds</i>
<i>Blick Art Studio</i>		<i>Mall of America</i>



This list includes contributions from January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018 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.

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Minneapolis, MN 55406

Annual Report 2018

Our Mission

To Champion the development of Latino individuals and families to create a strong, peaceful community.

Our vision

A community in which Latinos –whether long-term residents or new arrivals—thrive and contribute to the strength of the greater community.



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