

La Oportunidad, Inc.

Annual Report 2021

La Oportunidad Inc.

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

inside...

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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 **(507 in 2021)** 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 **2021** La Oportunidad offered programs at **Andersen United Middle School, Anwatin Middle School, Jefferson Elementary School, and Wellstone International High School.**

Additional Partners in 2021 include:

Alliance Youth Group

Super Summer Program

Aurora Charter School

Teen Team Tech

Lincoln International High School

University of Minnesota Extension

Minneapolis Community & Technical

Urban Ventures

College/Raices

Youth Intervention Programs Association

Minneapolis Literacy Council

A Message from the Board President and the Executive Director

Dear friends and supporters of La Oportunidad,

We are very pleased to present this report in which we share our accomplishments and their impact in our community. This year was yet another challenging one. Our Latino community—and the larger community throughout the nation—continued to be impacted by the pandemic, as defined by all health, economic, and educational indicators.

Despite the pandemic and the destruction of our office building in the summer of 2020, we were able to continue to provide crucial programming for Latino families. In 2021, we served hundreds of Latino youth, adults, and families during a time they needed us the most! We were also able to secure and move to new office facilities that meet our organization's needs (**please note our new address: 2021 E. Hennepin Avenue, Suite 405, Minneapolis, MN 55413**).

One of the most gratifying aspects of our work is witnessing the leadership skills displayed by our youth in planning our 2021 Latinx Youth Leadership Conference. This conference took place in May and was offered in a virtual format. The youth planning team aptly selected as its theme: Community Resiliency and Healing. The resilience of our Latino youth and community as a whole has been of great inspiration as we continue to provide outreach and support to our community.

We are very grateful to our financial supporters, contributors, partners, volunteers, youth, board, and staff; all of whom have contributed to the advancement of our vision of a community in which all Latinos thrive and contribute to the strength of the greater community. As we continue our work, we appreciate your continued support in accomplishing our mission of championing the development of Latino individuals and families in our community.

With deep gratitude,

Brian Grande and Eloisa Echavez

Current Board of Directors

Brian Grande, President

Sr. Reporting Analyst, UnitedHealth Group

Aldo Rubio Lopez, Vice President

Sr. Buyer, Minneapolis Public Schools

Humberto Olivares, Treasurer

Investment Management Specialist, Wells Fargo Private Bank

Anne Knauff, Secretary

Retired Design Manager

Sofia Rodriguez Schmeling

Auditor, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Current Board Advisors

Bernice Arias

Manager, Contact Center Operations at Allina Health

Pamela Barragán

Commander, St. Paul Police Department

Linda Freemon

Retired (Health Industry)

María Ramírez Johnson

Retired Teacher, Minneapolis Public Schools

Current Staff

Eloisa Echávez

Executive Director

Adrian Diaz

Latino Youth Leadership Conference Coordinator

Rigoberto Gonzalez Jr.

Latino Youth Leadership Program Coordinator

Teo Nuñez

LEAP and Parents Program Coordinator

Jill Spurgeon

Finance Coordinator

Franklin Zumba

Young Professionals Program Coordinator

Position Currently Open

Office Manager and El Camino Program Coordinator

Thank you to all of our volunteers in 2021

Gloria Cazanagli

Esmeralda Diaz

Monica Diaz

David Echavez-Valdez

Jennifer Jimenez

Andrea Martinez

Brandon Martinez

Enrique Perez

Paola Piedra

Cristian Reyes

Giselle Rodriguez

Sheila Rojas

Wendy Sanchez

Layaned Sanisaca

Claudia Santoyo

Ximena Silva-Avila



New Office Facilities

In the summer of 2020, our office building was destroyed during the civil unrest in Minneapolis. This predicament, compounded by the pandemic, forced us to work remotely while continuing to provide crucial programming to the youth and adults we serve. In early 2021, we began the search for new office facilities. In the summer of 2021, we found the perfect building for our organization: the Hennepin Square building. Located in the heart of Hennepin county, it houses several other non-profits and community businesses, is near public transportation options, and offers abundant on-site free parking spaces.

We completed our move in October of 2021. Everyone who has been to our new office (program participants, supporters, partners, volunteers, board and staff members) have been very pleased with these facilities and the building. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone who supported us during this transition. It wasn't easy, but our mission and vision for a strong, healthy community kept us going.



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, lifelong 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.

In 2021, the program served **215 youth** through our school-based groups, Mentorship-Leadership Community Engagement Academy, and specialized workshops (virtually and/or in-person).

Main program outcomes include:

80% Increased participation in their education and life goals.

87% Increased sense of self-esteem and self-worth.

85% Improved relationships with peers, family members and others.

90% Increased capacity for leadership and/or ability to make a positive contribution to their community.



Annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference:

On May 21, 2021, 78 youth representing 18 schools gathered for La Oportunidad's 20th annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference. As a result of the COVID-19 virus the conference was hosted online through Zoom.

The Youth Planning Committee selects an annual theme based on relevant social issues or topics that impacts the Latino community. For that reason, the Committee selected Community Healing and Resiliency as the theme for 2021. The purpose of the theme was to acknowledge how the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the social unrest after the killing of George Floyd, affected our global and local society. The Committee believed it was important for youth to understand how the previous months changed their lives and how community members supported each other.

This year the event was changed to adjust to the virtual format. Vibrant and colorful presentations with music were developed to create excitement throughout the event. The conference's highlights included a powerful message from the two youth MC's: Layaned Sanisaca and Enrique Perez; as well as eight workshops facilitated by local community members. Additionally, various Latinx culture-focused trivia questions were asked to engage the students during the welcome and finale of the event. The eight workshops covered different aspects of healing and resiliency, such as: understanding how trauma and experiences shape your future, how our community supports each other, the importance of self-care and processing your emotions, and finding motivation during the hardest times. A complete list and description of each workshop is found in the Conference Program.

The success of this event was a result of a labor of love from the Youth Planning Committee. The feedback from the conference participants' exceeded expectations. The planning committee, made up of high school Latinx youth leaders and mentors, met virtually to plan all aspects of the conference, and to find ways to transition to a virtual format. Additional to the mentors, huge support came from our sponsors: Minneapolis Foundation's Fund for Safe Communities and Youthpraise.

Themes of previous conferences include:

2019: Justicia y Sostenibilidad Ambiental (Environmental Justice & Sustainability)
2018: Cuídame, Cuídate (Let's Take Care of Each Other)
2017: El Pueblo Unido (The People United) – Theme: Social Action/Activism
2016: De Donde Vengo y Adonde Voy (Where I'm From and Where I'm Going)
2015: Express Your Identity
2014: Cultivating My Well-Being
2013: Traditions in Our Hearts, United We Thrive
2012: Growing Healthy Relationships Together
2011: Dancing with the "Sole", Bailando con El Corazón
2010: Mind Opening Scenes: Artes Visuales
2008: Who am I? Finding Myself to Promote Peace
2007: Our History and Traditions: The Key to the Future
2006: Hip Hop: A Tool for Peace and Social Change
2005: Healthy Lifestyles
2004: An Intergenerational Dialog on Immigration



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 per- cent 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).

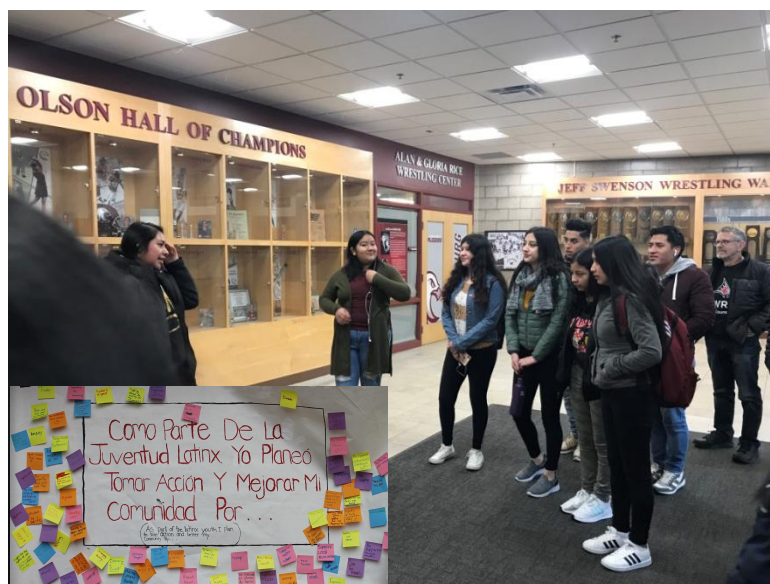
Young Professionals Career Path Program

Created in the summer of 2013 as a pilot program, this program was so successful that 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 2021, we served **120 youth and young adults** through our school-based groups and our specialized career path workshops (virtually and/or in-person).

Main program outcomes include:

- 85%** Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests.
- 83%** Identified required education and skills needed to pursue their career path.
- 82%** Developed a plan to fulfill their short and long-term career goals.
- 80%** 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 2021, the Padres Program served **57 parents** through our group sessions and/or specialized workshops (virtually and/or in-person). Main program outcomes include

94% Developed positive parenting skills, applied them at home, and improved family relationships

100% Increased participation in their children's education.

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

90% 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 2021, LEAP served **115 Latino adults** through our in-person and/or virtual classes/groups. Main program outcomes include:

94% Increased understanding of the impact of domestic violence on the family.

95% Practiced concepts and skills shared in class as alternatives to violence and improved family relationships.

92% Increased knowledge of personal financial management.

99% 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 663 donated hours have a value of \$14,526 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.

2021 Outcomes: La Oportunidad would not have the reach and impact that we do without the partnership and commitment of our volunteers. In 2021, 18 volunteers contributed 898 hours. This includes afterschool program assistants, Board members and our Youth Leadership Conference planning committee members and mentors.

Contributors, Supporters, and Financial Information

Foundation and Corporate Support

Elmer & Eleanor Andersen Foundation

Minneapolis Foundation

TCF Bank

Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation

Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation

Thompson Reuters Foundation

Catholic Community Foundation

Otto Bremer Foundation

James R. Thorpe Foundation

Kopp Family Foundation

Perrigo Company Foundation

Warren Foundation

Marbrook Foundation

Sexton Family Foundation

Youthprise

Government

Dakota Community Corrections

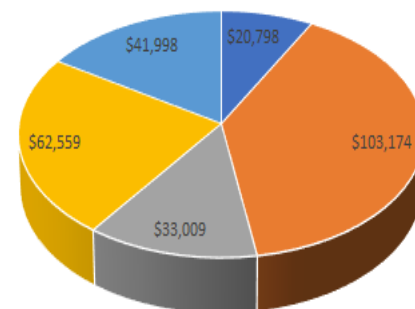
Hennepin HSPH: Child Protection

Hennepin Community Corrections

MN Department of Public Safety

	2020		2021	
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$156,044	48%	\$115,253	38%
Government Service Fees	\$127,044	39%	\$165,835	54%
All Other Revenues	\$42,298	13%	\$24,947	8%
Total Support & Revenue	\$326,016		\$306,035	
El Camino Program	\$36,288	12.3%	\$20,798	8%
Latino Youth Programs	\$106,464	36.2%	\$103,174	39%
Padres Program	\$ 56,195	19.1%	\$33,009	13%
Latinos Ending Abuse Program	\$ 55,672	19%	\$62,559	24%
Programs Subtotal	\$254,619	86.6%	\$219,540	84%
Management & Fundraising	\$39,347	13.4%	\$41,998	16%
Total Expenses	\$293,966		\$261,538	
Total Assets	\$504,681		\$531,368	
Total Liabilities	\$61,411		\$16,251	
Change in Net Assets	\$32,050		\$44,497	
Beginning Net Assets	\$336,270		\$368,320	
Net Assets Ending	\$368,320		\$412,817	

2021 Expense Chart



- El Camino Program
- Latino Youth Programs
- Padres Program
- Latinos Ending Abuse Program
- Management & Fundraising

Contributors and Supporters

Individual Donors		
Anne Knauff	Eloisa Echavez	Sofia Rodriguez-Schmeling
Dean A. and Debra A. Armstrong	Linda Freemon	John L. Romano
ANONYMOUS	María Ramírez Johnson	



This list includes contributions from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021 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.

2021 East Hennepin Ave

Suite 405

Minneapolis, MN 55413

Annual Report 2021

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.



La Oportunidad Inc.

www.oportunidad.org

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