



La Oportunidad, Inc.

2022
Annual Report



Mural by La Oportunidad's Youth Program Participants



Why Our Work Matters

For over 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 (**556 in 2022**) of Latino individuals and families in the community each year by:

- ~ Fostering social and emotional development in 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 three and five, 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, as a certified Community Learning Partner with the district, 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.

In 2022 La Oportunidad offered programs at various schools listed on the next page.

Partners in 2022 Include:

Schools:

Andersen United Middle School
Jefferson Middle School
Lincoln International High School
Hiawatha Collegiate High School
Edison High School
Chanhassen High School
Park Center Senior High School
Roseville Area High Schools
Fairview Alternative High School

Other Partners:

Educational Credit Management Corporation,
The College Place
Minneapolis Community & Technical College,
Office of Equity & Inclusion
University of Minnesota, Admissions Department
University of Minnesota Extension
Urban Ventures
Youth Intervention Programs Association



Financial Support:

Foundation & Corporate:

Elmer & Eleanor Andersen Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation
Exchange Club of East Minneapolis
Kopp Family Foundation
Mall of America
Marbrook Foundation
McDonald's Corporation
Minneapolis Foundation
Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation
Sexton Foundation
James R. Thorpe Foundation
US Bank Foundation
Warren Foundation
Youthprise

Government:

Hennepin County
MN Department of Public Safety
Dakota County

Individual Donors:

Anonymous
Arianna Ahumada
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Eloisa Echavez
Linda Freemon
Friends at Neon One
Ann Garvey
Brian Grande
Anne Knauff
Maria Ramirez Johnson
Sofia Rodriguez Schmeling
John L. Romano
Michael K. Vennewitz
Melissa Williams

A Message from the Board President and the Executive Director

Dear friends and supporters of La Oportunidad,

We are very proud to present this report in which we share our accomplishments and their impact in our community. This year was yet another challenging year. Our Latino community—and the larger community throughout the nation—continued to be impacted to some degree by the pandemic as well as the state of the economy.

Despite these challenges, we were able to continue to provide crucial programming for Latino families. In 2022, we served 556 Latino youth, adults and families with special emphasis on our services to youth due to the highly increased demand and need for them. We also settled in and welcomed our community to our new office location in Hennepin Square Building (after our move to this location in November of 2021).

One of the most motivating aspects of our work is witnessing our youth in action, learning and applying leadership skills, including in the planning of our 2022 Latinx Youth Leadership Conference. This event took place in May at our hosting institution, the Minneapolis Community & Technical College (in partnership with their Office of Equity & Inclusion). The youth planning team selected as the conference theme: “Adelante Seguimos” (Together We Move Forward).

We are very grateful to our partners, financial supporters, contributors, volunteers, youth, board, and staff; all of who contribute 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 to work even harder, we appreciate even more your support in accomplishing our mission of championing the development of Latino individuals and families in our community.

With deep appreciation,

Aldo Rubio Lopez and Eloisa Echavez

Current Board of Directors

Aldo Rubio Lopez, President
Planner Buyer, Xcel Energy

Anne Knauff, Vice-President
Retired Design Manager

Brian Grande, Secretary
Data Lead, UnitedHealth Group

Humberto Olivares, MBA, Treasurer
Sr. Private Wealth Portfolio Specialist, Wells
Fargo Private Bank

Sofia Rodriguez Schmeling
Auditor, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Key Staff

Eloisa Echávez, Executive Director

Adrian Diaz, Special Projects Consultant

Teo Nuñez, Latinos Ending Abuse Program &
Parents Program Coordinator

Ariel R. Chimbolema Roldan, Youth Programs
Assistant

Jill Spurgeon, Finance Coordinator

Franklin Zumba, Youth Programs Coordinator &
Leadership Conference Coordinator

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

2022 Volunteers

Adolfo Barrera González

Sofia Bunay

Nallely Castro

Miriam Diaz

Jimena Escoto

Yantze Kempe

Jennifer Lopez

Brandon Martinez

Marlene Rodriguez

Santiago Rodriguez

Wendy Sanchez

Layaned Sanisaca

Rukshana Triem

Jazmin Umana

Edras Umana



Youth Programs

La Oportunidad Youth Programs' goal is to close the achievement gap through a comprehensive approach, which includes providing them with the education, life-long skills development, tools, and connections needed to lead and succeed in the 21st century and by supporting and empowering them to reach their full potential. In partnership with school districts and community organizations, our programs serve around 300 low-income Latino immigrant youth each year through its various programs and special activities described below.

For over 30 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 and student-centered programs Latino youth gain a plan of action to pursue higher education, an introduction to career pathways, work-readiness skills, leadership skills and community involvement. Program activities include after-school group sessions that support and empower youth and young adults to develop the skills, tools and connections needed to complete high school, pursue a post-secondary education and/or launch a career path.

In 2022, the youth programs served a total of **241 youth** through our school-based weekly/bi-weekly groups, Leadership-Mentorship Community Engagement Academy, and one-on-one sessions. Main program outcomes include:

84% Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests

84% Identified required education and skills needed to pursue their career path

85% Developed a basic plan to fulfill their short and long-term educational and career goals

85% Identified a mentor who can support them

93% Increased capacity for leadership and/or ability to make a positive contribution to their community.



Annual student-led Latino Youth Leadership Conference

The LYLC Youth Planning Committee is the heart and soul of this Conference. The Committee is comprised of students, mentors, and Conference Coordinators, who meet from November to May to plan all aspects of this unique event. The goal of the Committee is to plan an engaging and inspiring event for young Latinxs. **On May 20, 2022, 105 youth and 27 adults** gathered at our hosting institution, the Minneapolis Community & Technical College, for our 21th annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference. The conference theme, 'Adelante Seguimos' (Together We Move Forward), focused on looking back at our past, the barriers our community has overcome, and how to move forward as a community.

The event was kicked-off by our two youth emcees, Santi Rodriguez and Layaned Sanisaca. They welcomed students with a fun Latinx jeopardy, followed by a welcome from Truman Lindsey (Vice President of Equity & Inclusion at the MCTC). The participants enjoyed performances from two dance groups: Kalpulli Yaocenoxtl (Aztec dance group) and Mexico Azteca Inc (Tapatio folkloric dance group). Both groups delivered vibrant and energetic performances, as well as powerful messages about cultural representation and history. Workshops highlighted a variety of topics, from mental health awareness, healthy relationships, entrepreneurship, community leadership, ways to step outside your comfort zone, and cultural appreciation.



Summer Program

In **2022**, our organization coordinated and facilitated a series of summer activities in partnership with schools, community organizations/institutions. **Forty-one families** participated in this program. Some of the activities included:

A 3-day camping trip at Carver Park Reserve, fieldtrips to the Minnesota Zoo, the Minnesota Science Museum, the Minnesota History Center, Valley Fair, a canoeing Fieldtrip at Hidden Falls Regional Park, and a campus tour to St. Cloud State University. For most of these families this was the first time they had the opportunity to participate on this type of experiences. They developed and/or increased their motivation to pursue a higher education, their team-building skills, mental and physical health, their knowledge and appreciation for nature/the environment, healthy life-style (including physical activity and learning how to relax and disconnect from technology).

Another important activity that took place was a workshop to prepare parents for the new academic year. Our organization and Lincoln International High School hosted a parents' night. During this event, parents became familiar on how the U.S. educational system works and how to navigate grading, testing, and attendance. Furthermore, we provided them with great resources in our communities to improve the learning environment for students in this new academic year.

Why the Latino Youth Leadership & Young Professionals Career Path Programs Matter: 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 (How Children Succeed, Paul Tough). La Oportunidad's after school programs foster these skills for disadvantaged Latino youth.

Finding and keeping a good job is one of the only ways per- sons 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.



Parenting (Padres) Program

The Padres Program offers year-round programming to educate, support, and empower Latino parents to 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 2022, the Padres Program served **65 parents** through our weekly group sessions and/or specialized workshops. Main program outcomes include:

95% Developed positive parenting skills, applied them at home, improve family relationship.

100% Increased participation in their children's education.

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

94% 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 2022, LEAP served **145 Latino adults** through our in-person and virtual classes/groups (as needed).

Main program outcomes include:

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

94% Practiced concepts and skills shared in class as alternatives to violence and improved family relationships.

94% Increased knowledge of personal financial of the program.

99% Did no re-offender 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.

In 2022, 20 volunteers contributed 546 hours. This includes after-school program assistants, workshop presenters, and our Youth Leadership Conference planning committee members and mentors.

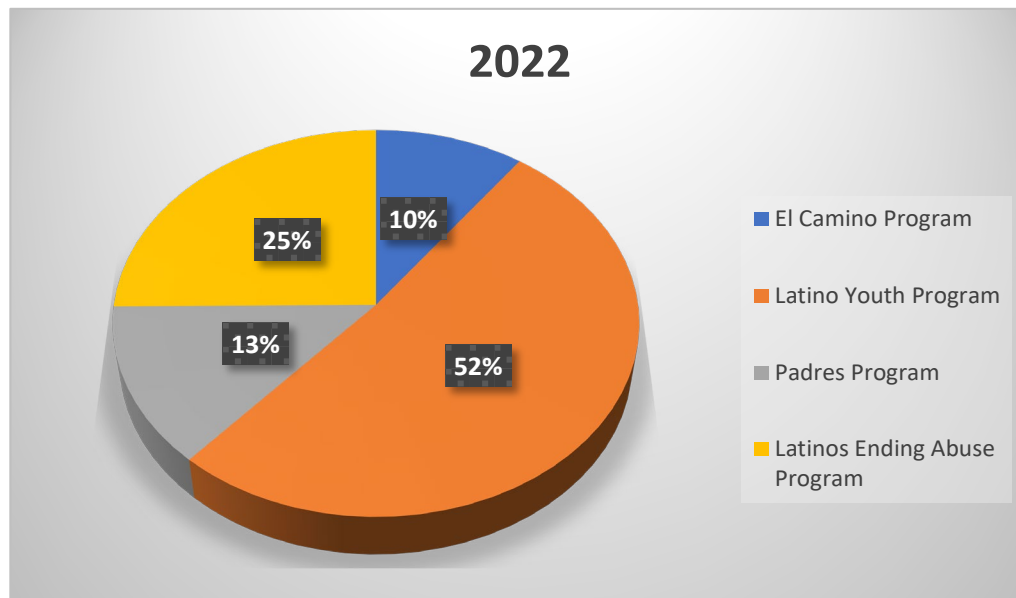
Why the Volunteer Program Matters: La Oportunidad's small staff would not have the reach and impact that we do without the partnership and commitment of our volunteers. The 546 donated hours have a value of \$11,963 according to the Independent Sector, a nonprofit leadership network. While La Oportunidad 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.

Organizational Highlight: In 2022, our organization applied for and was approved membership into SER (a national organization based in Texas). "For over 50 years, SER has addressed the needs of economically challenged individuals in education, job skills training, literacy and employment. SER's ultimate goal is to provide opportunities for individuals to become full and productive citizens in their communities. SER is a national, private, nonprofit organization making a positive impact on families across America. SER is the Spanish verb for "to be" and also reflects the means by which our mission is accomplished—Service, Employment, and Redevelopment. Since its inception, SER National has played a key role in the nation's workforce investment system, and is today recognized by the US Department of Labor as the "premier community-based organization serving the employment needs of the Hispanic community."



2022 Financial Information

	2022	2021
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$137,582	\$115,253
Government Service Fees	\$132,843	\$165,853
All Other Revenues	\$35,783	\$24,947
Total Support & Revenue	\$306,208	\$306,035
El Camino Program	\$26,790	\$20,798
Latino Youth Programs	\$137,210	\$103,174
Padres Program	\$35,651	\$33,009
Latino Ending Abuse Program	\$67,015	\$62,559
Programs Subtotal	\$266,666	\$219,540
Management & Funding	\$37,783	\$41,998
Total Expenses	\$304,449	\$261,538
Total Assets	\$508,641	\$531,638
Total Liabilities	\$18,490	\$16,251
Change in Net Assets	\$1,759	\$44,497
Beginning Net Assets	\$412,817	\$368,320
Net Assets Ending	\$414,576	\$412,817





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2021 East Hennepin Ave
Suite 405
Minneapolis, MN 55413

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.



www.oportunidad.org

Find us on:
facebook®

2021 East Hennepin Ave
Suite 405
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Phone: 612-872-6165
Fax: 612-872-0964

