



La Oportunidad, Inc.



**2023**  
**Annual Report**

## 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 (**689 in 2023**) 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 subsequent pages, 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 2023** La Oportunidad offered programs at various schools listed on the next page.

## Partners in 2023 Include:

### Schools:

Andersen United Middle School  
Benilde-Saint Margaret's School  
Fairview Alternative High School  
Green Central Elementary School  
Lincoln International High School  
Park Center Senior High School  
Roseville Area High School  
Roseville Area Middle School  
Thomas Edison High School  
Washington Tech. Magnet High School  
Washington Tech. Magnet Middle School

### Other Partners:

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



## Financial Support:

### Foundation & Corporate:

Elmer & Eleanor Andersen Foundation  
The Better Together Fund  
Otto Bremer Foundation  
Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation  
Catholic Community Foundation  
Charities Aid Foundation  
Exchange Club of East Minneapolis  
Kopp Family Foundation  
Mall of America  
Marbrook Foundation  
Local McDonald's Owner/Operators  
Minneapolis Foundation  
Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation  
Sexton Family Foundation  
James R. Thorpe Foundation  
UnitedHealth Group  
Warren Foundation

### Government:

Hennepin County  
MN Department of Public Safety  
Dakota County

### Individual Donors:

Dean A. & Debra A. Armstrong  
Eloisa Echavez  
Brian Grande  
Anne Knauff  
Maria Padilla  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Parr  
Maria Ramirez Johnson  
John L. Romano

## *A Message from the Board President and the Executive Director*

---

Dear friends and supporters of La Oportunidad,

We are very proud to share with you this report of our accomplishments and their impact in the community. Our critical role in closing the achievement gap and breaking the cycles of violence and poverty has had a significant impact in the lives of those we serve. In 2023, we served 689 Latino youth, adults, and families; 133 more than in the previous year. This major increase was to meet the needs of our burgeoning Latino community in the Twin Cities.

We also expanded the capacity of our youth programs by serving a greater number of youth and offering them additional leadership enrichment activities and community involvement opportunities. A team of these youth planned all aspects of our Annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference, attended by 260 youth and 25 educators.

We are very grateful to our partners, financial supporters, volunteers, youth, board, and staff; all of whom contribute to the advancement of our vision of a community in which all Latinos – whether long-term residents or new arrivals -thrive and contribute to the strength of the greater community. As our Latino community continues to grow faster than ever, we appreciate even more your support in accomplishing our mission of championing the development of Latino individuals and families to create a strong, peaceful community.

With deep gratitude,

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

**Maria Padilla**  
Community Connect, Centro Tyrone Guzman

## Key Staff

**Eloisa Echávez**, Executive Director

**Adrian Diaz**, Special Projects Consultant

**Teo Nuñez**, Latinos Ending Abuse Program &  
Parents Program Coordinator

**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

## 2023 Interns & Volunteers

### College Interns:

**Adriana Hernandez Cruz**  
**Cody S Oesterreich**

### Youth Volunteers:

**Gabby Alvarado**  
**Angelica Calle**  
**Ximena Calle**  
**Sophia Hoffman**  
**Rodrigo Jimenez**  
**Wesley Jimenez**  
**Regina Marina**  
**Katherine Mulgrew**  
**Ciara Palacios**  
**Emily Palacios**  
**Alondra Rivas**  
**Kerly Rvivar**  
**Jefferson Uyaguari**  
**Jessica Villareal Juarez**  
**Rosa Estefania Yunga Ayavaca**  
**Victoria Zamorano**

### Corporate/Community Volunteers:

**Ana M, Ariel C, Brittany C, Darma V, Diana V, Cesar M, Emilio C, Geanella O, Gloria L, Heidi G, Irene M, Isabel L, Jason C, Jonathan, Marcela R, Nelson M, Nicolas C, Pamela A, Paola S, Sofia P.**



# 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 2023**, the youth programs served a total of **431** youth through our school-based weekly/bi-weekly groups, Leadership-Mentorship Community Engagement Academy, and one-on-one sessions. Main program outcomes include:

75% Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests

80% Identified required education and skills needed to pursue their career path

78% Developed a basic plan to fulfill their short and long-term educational and career goals

80% Identified a mentor who can support them

83% Increased capacity for leadership and/or ability to make a positive contribution to their community.





# Annual student-led Latino Youth Leadership Conference

The conference's planning team is the heart and soul of this annual successful event. The Team is comprised of 15 students, mentors, and a Lead Conference Coordinator from our organization, who meet from November to May to plan all aspects of this unique event. Their overall goal is to plan an engaging and inspiring event for young Latinxs. **On May 19, 2023, 260 students and 25 educators** from various schools gathered at our Annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference that took place at the Minneapolis Community & Technical College (hosted by their department of Equity & Inclusion). This year's event theme was: How to Deal with Loneliness and Live Happily. This theme was chosen after conducting a survey with the students at the various schools our organization provides its youth programming.

The event offered twelve workshops, eleven designed specifically for students (mental health) and one tailored for educators (on schools' inclusiveness). All of these workshops were facilitated by Latinx professionals and community leaders. These workshops played a crucial role in various domains, including personal growth and development, and in creating inclusive/welcoming schools' environment. They offered a structured and interactive learning environment where Latino/Latinx students and educators actively engaged, collaborated, were empowered, and developed a plan of action to implement in their schools, home, and their community. The conference also showcased two talented performer Latinx groups (Perro Solar music group and a Colombian dance group, Grupo de Danzas Colombianas de Minnesota) who captivated the audience with their vibrant acts. Overall, this successful event provided a platform for education, cultural celebration, engagement and empowerment.



# Youth Summer Program & Other Special Activities

**In 2023**, our organization coordinated and facilitated a number of summer activities in partnership with schools, community organizations/institutions. **Seventy-three youth** participated in this program. Activities included:

**Hiking the Arcola Trail in Stillwater:** On Thursday, June 29th, 17 youth had the opportunity to hike the Arcola Trail in Stillwater for the very first time.

**Community Volunteer Day:** On July 13th, 23 youth conducted a Clean Up Day at the Theodore Wirth Park. Students learned about the contributions we can make to the health/beauty of the community.

**Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children:** On July 20th, 16 youth spent the day volunteering at Feed My Starving Children. This activity taught students about giving back to the less fortunate, acts of kindness and compassion.

**Attending the soccer match between Minnesota United & Chicago Fire:** July 27, 20 students participated on this unique outing that taught valuable lessons about teamwork, sportsmanship, and the beauty of diversity.

**Paddle boating on Como Lake:** On August 3rd, 18 youth participated on this activity about team-work and the joy of being immersed in nature.

**Summer Program Farewell: Celebrating Success at Square Lake:** On August 10th, our 20 students celebrated the culmination of the program, the lessons and skills-learned/strengthened.





**Additional enrichment, community engagement, leadership activities for youth during the school year included:**

**"Building a Bridge" activity:** April 7, 30 students participated.

**Retreat/camping trip to Schwyzer Lodge:** Weekend of June 16th, 12 students participated.

**Student's Talent Show:** June 2nd, 21 students participated.

**Minneapolis Institute of Art Fieldtrip:** October 31st, 60 students participated.

**Cultural Conversations:** November 9th, collaboration with Lincoln International High School, 400 students participated.

**Resume-Building/Mock Interview Event**

**Partnership:** November 15th, collaboration with US Bank, resume building and mock interview event; 10 volunteers-mentors, 17 students participated.

**Metropolitan State University Campus Tour/Panel:** December 5th, 35 students participated.



# 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 2023**, the Padres Program served **94 parents** through our weekly group sessions and/or specialized workshops. Main program outcomes include:

96% 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.

95% 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 2023**, LEAP served **163 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.

93% Practiced concepts and skills shared in class as alternatives to violence and improved family relationships.

95% 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](http://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](http://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.

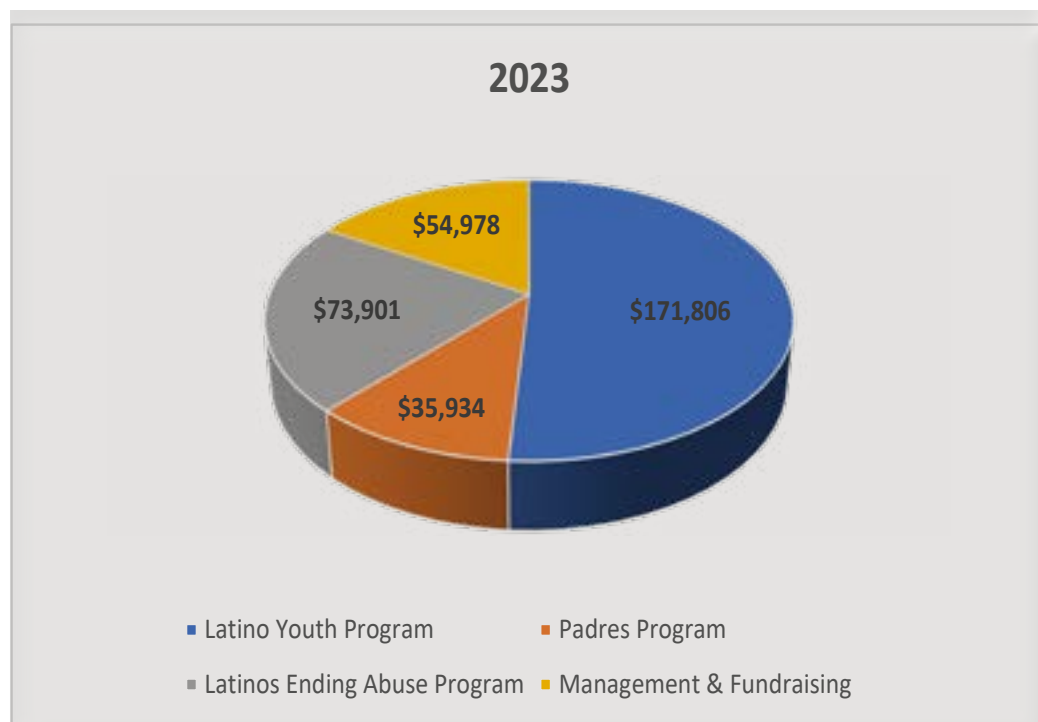
**In 2023, 49 volunteers** contributed over one thousand hours.

**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 1000 donated hours have a value of \$22,000 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 late 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." This membership/partnership produced positive results during 2023.



	2023	2022
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$162,629	\$137,582
Government Service Fees	\$131,748	\$132,843
All Other Revenues	\$43,343	\$35,783
Total Support & Revenue	\$337,720	\$306,208
Latino Youth Programs	\$171,806	\$137,210
Padres Program	\$35,934	\$35,651
Latino Ending Abuse Program	\$73,901	\$67,015
Programs Subtotal	\$281,641	\$266,666
Management & Funding	\$54,978	\$37,783
Total Expenses	\$336,619	\$304,449
Total Assets	\$492,257	\$508,641
Total Liabilities	\$18,494	\$18,490
Change in Net Assets	\$1,101	\$1,759
Beginning Net Assets	\$414,576	\$412,817
Net Assets Ending	\$415,677	\$414,576





2021 East Hennepin Ave  
Suite 405  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

# 2023 Annual Report

## 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](http://www.oportunidad.org)



2021 East Hennepin Ave  
Suite 405  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

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

