

The logo consists of a stylized red 'S' or 'G' shape that curves around the text.

La Oportunidad, Inc.



**2024**  
**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 (**698 in 2024**) 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.**

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## 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 2024** La Oportunidad offered programs at various schools listed on the next page.

## Partners in 2024 Include:

### Schools:

Andersen United Middle 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  
White Bear Lake Area High Schools

### Other Partners:

Educational Credit Management Corporation,  
The College Place  
Esperanza United  
Metro State University  
Minneapolis Community & Technical College, DEI  
Minnesota Legal Aid  
Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
Urban Ventures  
Youth Intervention Programs Association

## Financial Support:

### Foundation & Corporate:

Elmer & Eleanor Andersen Foundation  
Otto Bremer Foundation  
Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation  
Catholic Community Foundation  
Charities Aid Foundation  
Exchange Club of East Minneapolis  
Greater Horizons  
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  
Warren Foundation  
Youthprise

### Government:

Hennepin County  
MN Department of Public Safety  
Dakota County

### Individual Donors:

Dean A. & Debra A. Armstrong  
Eloisa Echavez  
Brian Grande  
Anne Knauff  
Humberto Olivares  
Maria Padilla  
John L. Romano  
Owen Wengreen





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

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Dear friends and supporters of La Oportunidad,

We are very excited to share with you this report of our accomplishments in 2024 and their impact in the community. Our critical role in closing the achievement gap and breaking the cycles of violence and poverty had a significant impact in the lives of those we served. In 2024, we provided direct programming and services to 698 unduplicated Latino youth, adults, and families.

This year, we continued to expand the capacity of our programs, for youth in particular. We offered youth additional leadership and community involvement opportunities, which complemented our educational and career path preparedness programming. A team of these youth planned all aspects of our Annual Latinx Youth Leadership Conference, attended by 300 youth, and over 25 educators and mentors.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude 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.

Sincerely,

Brian Grande and Eloisa Echavez

## Current Board of Directors

**Brian Grande**, President  
Manager People Analytics, UnitedHealth Group

**Aldo Rubio Lopez**, Vice-President  
Planner Byer, Xcel Energy

**Anne Knauff**, Secretary  
Retired Design Manager

**Humberto Olivares**, MBA, Treasurer  
Wells Fargo 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

## 2024 Interns & Volunteers

### College Interns:

**Edith Monterroso**  
**Gabriella Tacuri Plaza**

### Youth Volunteers:

**Eder Castillo**  
**Mayra Evelyn Cepeda Vinan**  
**Salvador Corral**  
**Candy Gomez**  
**Eliu Neptaly Gamez Gonzalez**  
**Liliana Garrido**  
**Carlos Gonzales**  
**Joffre Gonzales**  
**Wesley Jimenez**  
**Regina Maria Molina**  
**Melissa Muñoz**  
**Luz Clarita Navas Quevedo**  
**Pablo Ochoa**  
**Juan Ortega**  
**Bryan Saul Rumipamba Toapanta**  
**Jonnathan Saraguro**  
**Stiven Toaquiza**  
**Fernando Uyaguari**  
**Valentina Chiquini Vique Hernandez**  
**Bryan Saul Villareal Juárez**  
**Nataly Zaldana**  
**Andres Zambrano**  
**Victoria Zamorano**



# 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 2024**, the youth programs served a total of **409** youth through our school-based weekly/bi-weekly groups, Leadership-Mentorship Community Engagement Academy, summer program, and one-on-one sessions. Main program outcomes include:

81% Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests

76% Identified required education and skills needed to pursue their career path

71% Developed a basic plan to fulfill their short and long-term educational and career goals

85% Identified a mentor who can support them

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





# Annual student-led Latino Youth Leadership Conference

The Conference Planning Committee is the heart and soul of this unique annual event. The Committee is comprised of 15-20 students, mentors, and a Lead Conference Coordinator, 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 Latinx youth. **On May 17, 2024, 300 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: "Más Allá de la Frontera: Unidos Por Nuestra Herencia Latina" (Beyond the Border: United by Our Latinx Heritage). This theme was chosen after conducting a survey with a large number of students at the various schools our organization provides its youth programming. The event offered twelve workshops, eleven designed specifically for students and one tailored for educators (on schools' inclusiveness). These workshops offered a structured and interactive learning environment where Latinx students and educators actively engaged, collaborated, were empowered, and developed a plan of action to implement in their schools, home, and their community.



# Youth Summer Program & Other Special Activities

In 2024, our organization coordinated and facilitated a number of summer activities in partnership with schools, community organizations/institutions. Ninety-one youth participated in this program. Activities included:

- **Hiking Theodore Wirth Regional Park:** On 6/21, 22 students participated in a hiking activity in the Theodore Wirth Regional Park.

- **Celebrating Our Students Indigenous Roots:** On 6/23, our summer group of students hosted a special event in support of their classmate to celebrate Inti Raymi. This event brought together nearly 350 attendees.

- **Canoeing on Bde Maka Ska:** On 6/27, 25 students joined us for an exciting lesson on canoeing, where they learned all the steps needed for a safe voyage.

- **Visit to the Minnesota Zoo:** On 6/28, 54 students from our school partner, Lincoln International High School, joined us for our summer program during a visit to the Minnesota Zoo.

- **Osprey Wilds Camp:** During the weekend of 6/29, 7 students had the opportunity to attend Osprey Wilds Summer Camp.

- **Volunteering at feed My Starving Children:** On 7/11, 17 students volunteered at Feed My Starving Children, packing meals for families in need.

- **Shingle Creek Park Clean Up:** On 7/25, 20 students cleaned up the Shingle Creek Park.

- **Visit to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum:** On 8/2, 17 students participated.

- **Visit to Mankato & New Ulm:** On 8/8, 15 students from our summer youth program, who have been consistently volunteering, embarked on an exciting trip to Minneopa State Park; they visited the Minneopa Falls, the Minneopa Bison Drive, and the Hermann Monument Society in New Ulm.





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

- **Healthy Relationships Workshop:** On 2/9, 25 students participated, at Edison High School.
- **Immigration Workshop:** On 3/14, 70 students and 10 families attended, at Lincoln International High School.
- **Career Day Workshop:** On 3/28, 80 students participated, at Lincoln Int. High School.
- **Visit to the Minnesota United FC Stadium:** On 4/12, 35 of our students from our school partners, Roseville Area Middle School and Roseville Area High School participated.
- **FAFSA Day Event:** On 5/16, 20 students participated, at Roseville Area High School.
- **Youth Conference Planning Team Retreat:** On 6/14, 9 students participated, at Lake City.
- **Painting & Mental Health Workshop:** On 10/2, 27 students participated, at Lincoln International High School.
- **St. Cloud State University Campus Tour:** On 11/20, 35 students participated.
- **Presentation on Legal Careers:** On 11/26, 25 students attended, at Roseville Area High School.
- **Arts & Crafts Activity:** On 12/12, 10 students participated, at Park Center High School.
- **Immigration Workshop:** On 12/7, 35 students participated, at Washington Technology Magnet High School.



# 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 2024**, the Padres Program served **104 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.

96% Developed a stronger parenting support system in the community.

96% 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 2024**, LEAP served **185 Latino adults** through our in-person and virtual classes/groups (as needed).

Main program outcomes include:

95% 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.

98% 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

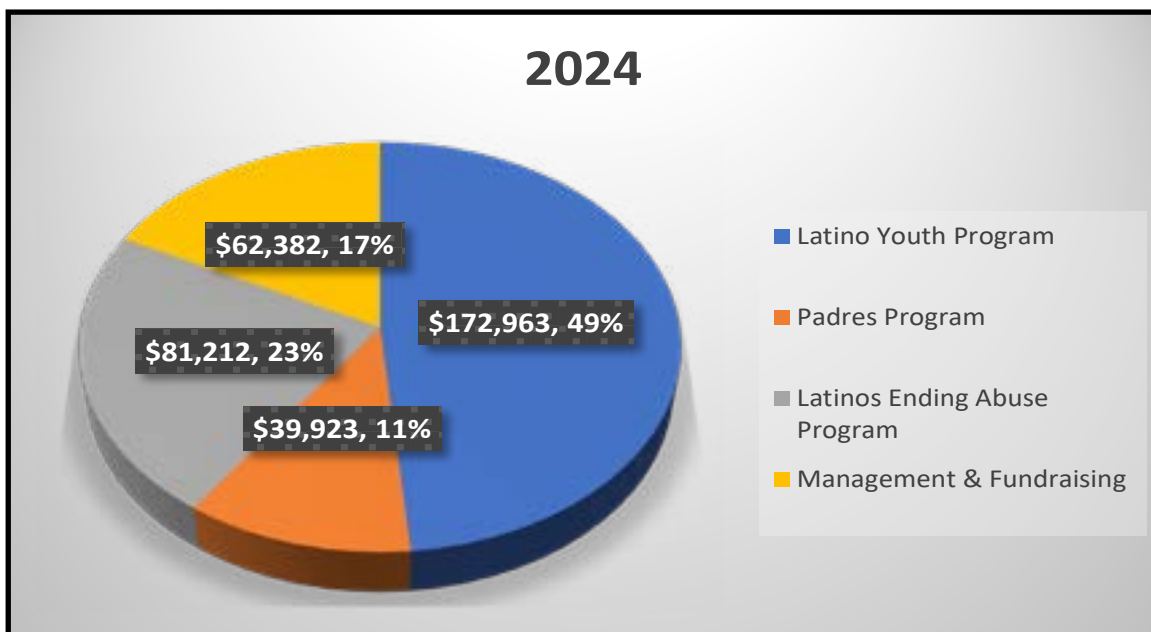
The Volunteer Program welcomes volunteers of various backgrounds to partner with us. Our volunteers often co-facilitate groups with a staff member, gaining hands-on experience in lesson planning, classroom management, bilingual education and learning from the youth and adults who participate in our programs.

**In 2024, 45 volunteers** contributed over one-thousand two-hundred 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 1200 donated hours have a value of \$26,400 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.



	2024	2023
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$146,863	\$162,629
Government Service Fees	\$167,796	\$131,748
All Other Revenues	\$ 48,742	\$43,343
Total Support & Revenue	\$363,401	\$337,720
Latino Youth Programs	\$172,963	\$171,806
Padres Program	\$39,923	\$35,934
Latino Ending Abuse Program	\$81,212	\$73,901
Programs Subtotal	\$294,098	\$281,641
Management & Funding	\$ 62,382	\$54,978
Total Expenses	\$356,480	\$336,619
Total Assets	\$481,732	\$492,257
Total Liabilities	\$22,211	\$18,494
Change in Net Assets	\$6,921	\$1,101
Beginning Net Assets	\$415,677	\$414,576
Net Assets Ending	\$422,598	\$415,677





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# 2024 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)



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