



La Oportunidad, Inc.



**2025  
Annual Report**

## Why Our Work Matters

**Our vision is a community in which Latinos –whether long-term residents or new arrivals— thrive and contribute to the strength of the greater community.** For over 30 years, our organization has responded to critical community needs by providing programs for low-income, Latino immigrants of all ages. **Our mission 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 main goal of our programs 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, Our organization impacts hundreds (**596 in 2025**) 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 2025,** La Oportunidad offered programs at various schools listed on the next page.

## Partners in 2025 Include:

### Schools:

Fairview Alternative High School  
Falcon Ridge Middle School  
Green Central Elementary School  
Hopkins High School  
Lincoln International High School  
Park Center Senior High School  
Roseville Area High School  
Roseville Area Middle School  
Washington Tech. Magnet High School  
Washington Tech. Magnet Middle School  
White Bear Lake Area High Schools

### Other Partners:

Clinica Fairview MN  
Communities Organizing Latine Power and Action  
Esperanza United  
Iglesia Centro Cristiano de Minneapolis  
Metropolitan State University  
Minnesota Legal Aid  
Minnesota Zoo  
Tickets for Kids  
Urban Ventures  
Youth Intervention Programs Association



## Financial Support:

### United Way, Foundation & Corporate:

Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation  
Catholic Community Foundation  
Exchange Club of East Minneapolis  
Greater Twin Cities United Way  
Mall of America  
Marbrook Foundation  
Local McDonald's Owner/Operators  
Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation  
James R. Thorpe Foundation  
Warren Foundation

### Government:

Hennepin County  
MN Department of Public Safety  
Dakota County

### Individual Donors:

Eloisa Echavez  
Linda Freemon  
Brian Grande  
Maria E. Johnson  
Anne Knauff  
Katy Muckala  
Melvin Navarro  
Humberto Olivares  
Maria Padilla  
John L. Romano  
Michael Vennewitz

## *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 2025 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 2025, we provided direct programming and services to 596 unduplicated Latino youth, adults, and families.

This year, we maintained 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 240 youth, and over 35 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,  
United Health 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

**Gloria Cazanacli**, 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

**Linda Freemon**  
Retired (Health Industry)

**María Ramírez Johnson**  
Retired Teacher, Minneapolis Public Schools

## 2025 Interns & Volunteers

### Youth & Community 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**  
**Katy Muckala**  
**Melissa Muñoz**  
**Luz Clarita Navas Quevedo**  
**Pablo Ochoa**  
**Juan Ortega**  
**Bryan Saul Rumipamba Toapanta**  
**Jonnathan Saraguro**  
**Stiven Toaquiza**  
**Fernando Uyaguari**  
**Valentina Chiquini Vicke Hernandez**  
**Bryan Saul Villareal Juárez**  
**Jessica Villareal Juárez**  
**Nataly Zaldana**  
**Andres Zambrano**  
**Victoria Zamorano**



# Youth Programs

Our 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 2025**, our youth programs served a total of **324 unduplicated (891 duplicated) 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:

69% Identified a career path that matches their strengths and interests.

63% Developed a basic plan to fulfill their short and long-term educational and career goals.

80% Identified a mentor who can support them.

78% Increased capacity for leadership and/or ability to make a positive contribution to their community.



# Annual student-led Latino Youth Leadership Conference

The goal of our conference planning team is to offer an engaging, inspiring, empowering annual event for Latinx youth and educators/school administrators. The most recent one was held on May 16, 2025 at Metropolitan State University, **bringing together 240 students and 35 educators from across Minnesota.** The theme highlighted the resilience, creativity, and limitless potential of Latinx youth, empowering them to not only overcome self-doubt and societal barriers, but to become leaders and positive change-agents in their schools and community. The event offered 10 dynamic workshops for youth led by Latino professionals covering critical topics such as: Healthy Relationships, Immigration & Advocacy, Media Literacy & Misinformation. Additionally, a special workshop for educators, “Knowing Your Rights,” provided essential tools to support students and communities facing immigration challenges. The workshops fostered learning, dialogue, and skill-building, empowering students and educators alike. The conference featured two captivating performances that celebrated Latinx culture: Lincoln International High School Dance Group and Colombia Live Dance Group, and a typical lunch.

This unique annual event was a powerful celebration of courage, culture, and community. Through inspiring performances, enriching workshops, and meaningful connections, the event reinforced the message that Latinx youth possess the strength to shape limitless futures.



# Youth Summer Program & Other Special Activities

This program develops and/or increase participants' team-building skills, mental and physical health, and their knowledge and appreciation for nature/the environment, and the pursue of a healthy lifestyle. **In 2025**, our organization coordinated and facilitated summer programming in partnership with schools, community organizations/institutions. **Sixty youth** participated in this program. Some of the activities included:

**Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children:** On July 24th, a group of 12 students from our Outdoors Summer Program volunteered at Feed My Starving Children. Our students had a wonderful time working together to pack meals and gained a deeper understanding of how their efforts can make a meaningful impact on the lives of others. This experience not only strengthened their sense of community but also showed them the power of volunteering to create positive change.

**Clean Up Day:** On August 7th, 16 students from our summer program participated in a Park Clean-Up at Shingle Creek Falls in Webber Park. The clean-up was more than just a service project, it was an opportunity for our youth to connect with nature, strengthen community pride, and experience firsthand the value of their contributions.

**Hiking in Sandstone:** On August 14th, 15 students from our summer program went on a hike in Sandstone, Minnesota. During the hike, students had the opportunity to see the lake, explore the native trees, and observe the local fauna of the area. Overall, it was an amazing experience where students not only enjoyed the outdoors but also learned more about the natural environment around them.

**Shore Adventure - Visiting Iconic Landmarks:** At the end of our Summer Program, the students decided on visiting Minnesota's beautiful North Shore—a place many of them had only seen before on Instagram, in videos, or through travel brochures. During the third week of August, their vision came to life. This trip was not only a celebration of their hard work but also an opportunity to connect with nature, history, and each other in powerful ways.



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

**-A Night of Soccer & Community Spirit:** On February 22nd, 30 students and their parents from our school partner Roseville Area Middle School enjoyed a Minnesota Blizzard FC match.

**-Immigration Rights Workshop:** On March 12th, 40 students from our school partner Hopkins High School participated at a workshop on immigration rights, T visas, and U visas.

**-Fieldtrip to the MN Zoo:** On April 11th, 35 students from our school partner Washington Middle participated.

**-College Visit:** On April 16th, 30 students from our school partner Lincoln International High School visited Metropolitan State University.

**-White Sox vs. Twins Game:** On April 22nd, a group of 30 students and 20 parents from our school partner Roseville Area Middle School attended.

**-Career Day:** On April 23rd, 30 students participated at a Career Day at our school partner Lincoln International High School.

**-Celebrating Latinx Culture at Washington Tech's Cultural Fair:** On May 9th, 33 students from our school partner Washington Tech proudly represented their heritage at this fair.

**-Latinx Youth Team Retreat at Stillwater:** On June 12th, 15 of our student leaders participated in a retreat to celebrate their accomplishments during the school year and to plan for the upcoming year.

**-Youth Volunteered at Parent-Teacher Conference:** On October 8th, 4 past members of our Latinx Youth Committee volunteered their time and bilingual skills to support 30 families during Lincoln International's Parent-Teacher Conference.

**-Career Exploration Activity:** On November 25th, we facilitated a career exploration activity with/for 32 middle school students at our school partner Roseville Area Middle School.



# Parenting (Padres) Program

Our 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, our Padres program offers financial literacy lessons, community workshops, individual referrals and guidance.

**In 2025**, our Padres Program served **133 parents** through our weekly group sessions and/or specialized workshops. Main program outcomes include:

97% Developed positive parenting skills, applied them at home, improve family relationship.

100% Increased participation in their children's education.

97% Developed a stronger parenting support system in the community.

95% Increased knowledge of personal financial management.

**Why Our 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

Our 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 2025, LEAP served 139 unduplicated (205 duplicated) 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.

97% Did no re-offender after completion of the program.

**Why Our 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

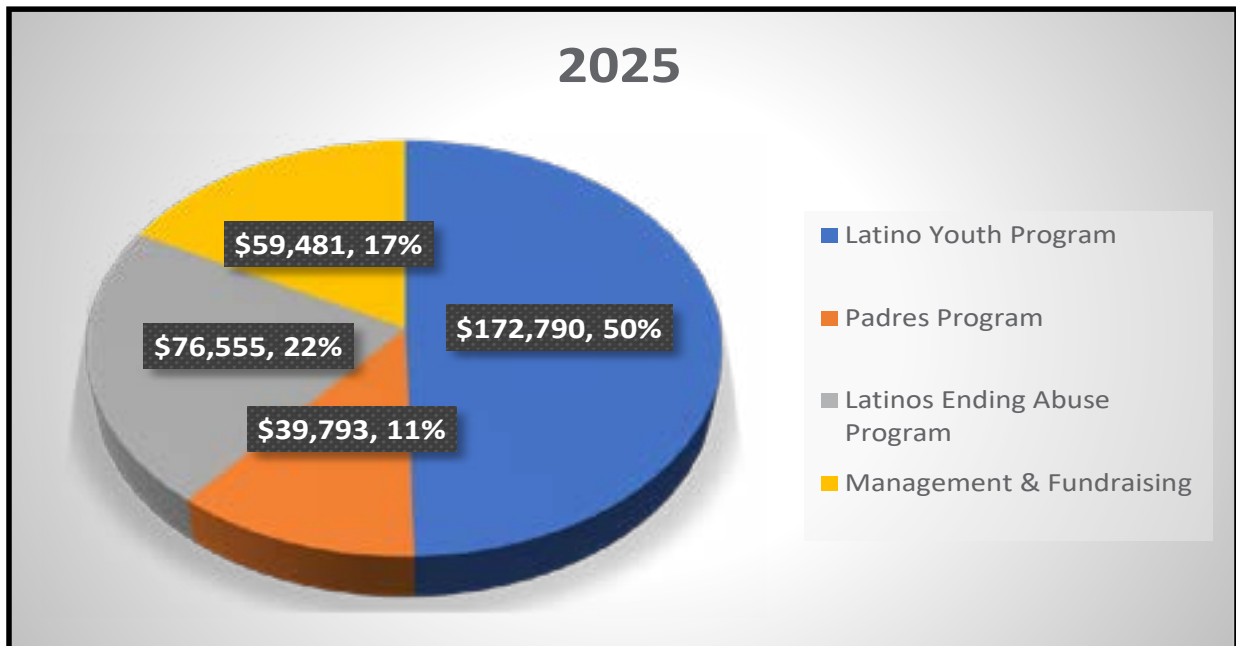
Our Volunteer Program welcomes volunteers of various backgrounds to partner with us. Volunteers often co-facilitate groups with a staff member, gaining hands-on experience in lesson planning, classroom management, bilingual education and learning from the youth and adults who participate in our programs.

**In 2025, 33 volunteers** contributed approximately one-thousand hours of their time, in addition to their energy and invaluable insights.

**Why Our Volunteer Program Matters:** Our 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 over \$20,000 according to the Independent Sector, a nonprofit leadership network. While our organization 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.



	2025	2024
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$140,843	\$146,863
Government Service Fees	\$141,460	\$167,796
All Other Revenues	\$ 45,998	\$ 48,742
Total Support & Revenue	\$328,301	\$363,401
Latino Youth Programs	\$172,790	\$172,963
Padres Program	\$39,793	\$39,923
Latino Ending Abuse Program	\$76,555	\$81,212
Programs Subtotal	\$289,138	\$294,098
Management & Funding	\$ 59,481	\$ 62,382
Total Expenses	\$348,619	\$356,480
Total Assets	\$425,811	\$481,732
Total Liabilities	\$23,531	\$22,211
Change in Net Assets	(\$20,318)	\$6,921
Beginning Net Assets	\$422,598	\$415,677
Net Assets Ending	\$402,280	\$422,598





# 2025 Annual Report

2021 East Hennepin Ave  
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## 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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