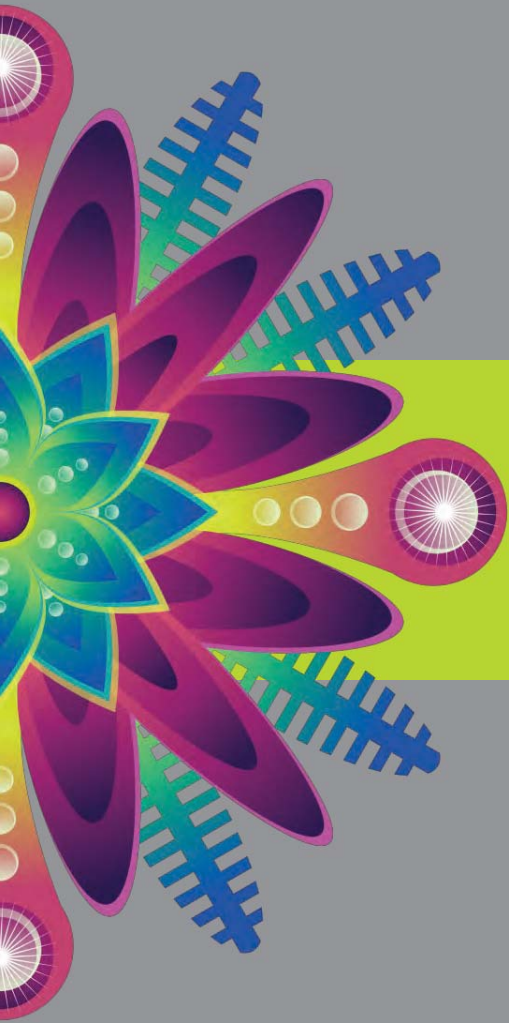


La Casa de Esperanza, Inc. 2016 Annual Report



**Providing
Hope, Help,
& Opportunity**

La Casa de Esperanza's mission is to provide opportunities to achieve full social and economic participation in society with an emphasis on the Hispanic population.



La Casa de Esperanza Charter School

"Making a Dream a Reality"

Groundbreaking Ceremony
September 1, 2016



Under bright blue skies, and with the whir of machinery in the background, the La Casa community gathered to break ground on the next chapter in La Casa de Esperanza's great history. After remarks by La Casa President and CEO Dr. Anselmo Villarreal and Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, **50 heroes of the first 50 years of La Casa joined with future heroes to break ground on their new school and their new future!**



Table of Contents

Leadership Message	4
Programs and Services	5
Children’s Education Program	6
Early Head Start.....	8
La Casa de Esperanza Charter School	10
Weatherization	12
Center for Financial Stability	14
La Casa Village I & II	16
2016 Board Rosters.....	18
Financial Data.....	20
Participant Data	21
2016 Donors	22
Meeting Challenges	26

Future Home of the La Casa de Esperanza Charter School



Leadership Message



Anselmo Villarreal, Ph.D.

Dear Valued Friends,

It seems that each year as we write this message, we write that it has been an incredible year for La Casa de Esperanza, Inc. And this year, once again, it has been a truly incredible year for La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.

La Casa's Five Star, Nationally Accredited Early Childhood Education program continues to thrive and serve as a source of scholars for La Casa's Charter School. We are so happy that families can now remain with us from the time their child is an

infant until they graduate from the 8th grade. Our Center for Financial Stability continues to provide critical services to move people out of poverty or, better yet, to prevent them from moving into poverty. Our Weatherization Program remains the largest in the State of Wisconsin, assisting over 1,200 households in improving the energy efficiency of their homes and saving much-needed money on their utility bills. Weatherization once again met all program and financial goals in 2016. And La Casa Village I & II, La Casa's Senior Housing Facilities, continues to provide a high quality living environment allowing our Seniors to remain self-sufficient as long as possible.

And in 2016, as a result of your support and friendship, we were able to begin construction of our 44,000 foot expansion that will house the La Casa de Esperanza Charter School beginning in the fall of 2017. This is happening just in time because the school is outgrowing existing facilities. In September of 2017 we will be moving K4, K5, 1st Grade, and 2nd Grade into its new home!

Fundraising efforts for the expansion is going well, but we still have much work to do. We are pleased to report that, to date, La Casa has raised over \$3.2 million toward a goal of \$6.5 million. We recently received exciting news that an anonymous donor has pledged to contribute \$500,000 when we raise another \$1 million. Any money that has been raised since December is being targeted to meet this challenge and we are nearly half way to the goal.

As you will learn as you read this Annual Report, we continue to work very hard to serve those most in need in our community and beyond. Our work would not be possible without the support of so many people like you. We assure you that we will never take your support for granted and will always take this responsibility very seriously.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anselmo Villarreal".

Anselmo Villarreal, Ph.D.
President and CEO



Marcos Ramos

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcos Ramos".

Marcos Ramos
Chairperson LCDE Board of Directors

Programs and Services

Academic Excellence:

- Children's Education Program
 - Open from 6 AM to 12 AM
 - Quality 5 Star, Nationally Accredited, provider
- Early Head Start
 - Free Home and Center Based programs for pregnant mothers and children up to age 3
- La Casa de Esperanza Charter School
 - Independent Public Charter School
 - High expectations, back to basics curriculum, uniforms, English instruction, character education

Center for Financial Stability:

- Moving people from poverty to financial stability to asset building
- Financial coaches work with families, individuals, and corporate partners in areas of tax preparation, budgeting, job search, and employment training

Weatherization:

- Cost-effective, permanent solutions to reduce the heavy energy burden families endure
- Serve Waukesha, Milwaukee, and Jefferson Counties
- Free Service to low-income individuals and families

La Casa Village I & II:

- Safe, affordable housing for low-income elderly and disabled individuals

Café Esperanza & Events:

- Restaurant and catering for the public
- Serves over 200,000 meals a year

Children's Education Program



La Casa de Esperanza provides high-quality early education services to the Waukesha community. We understand that each child is an individual with abilities to be strengthened and needs to be met for overall development. Each classroom environment provides the opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, reasoning ability, creativity and independence needed for positive growth and success in their education.

Our program provides care for children 6 weeks old to 12 years old and we are open from 6 am to midnight. While in our care we have daily curriculum activities, indoor and outdoor large motor space, and free meals.



La Casa is proud to be accredited by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC).



La Casa has received the highest, 5 star rating from YoungStar, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families childcare rating system. This

means that our education programs undergo a rigorous evaluation process to ensure that they meet high national and state standards in areas such as teacher qualifications, health and safety, curriculum, and more.



Success Story



**Provided care for
360 children in
Early Childhood
Education Program**



**Served 111
children in our School
Age Summer Program**



**140 students
receive homework
help after school**



**100 educational
field trips taken
throughout the year**



**Serve over
1,000 meals
daily**

Ann grew up on the other side of Wisconsin with her father and several mean stepmothers. Her father moved their family around a lot, and Ann was in at least three schools each year. She remembers being locked in the basement, in the washer and dryer, and in garbage cans as a young girl. At the age of 6 years, she began stealing her father's cigarettes. Ann continued to get into bigger trouble and hanging out with the wrong kids. By age 15, she was serving time for committing a felony.

Ann moved across the state to try to turn her life around. A number of years later, she found herself living in Waukesha with an abusive husband. She knew that she could not allow her children to grow up in a household of domestic violence so she left her husband. Ann would stay with friends, but didn't have a place of her own. It wasn't easy for her, but she knew she couldn't go back.

Ann came to La Casa for a couple of reasons. La Casa is open from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight. Because Ann is currently working from 5:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Johnson Creek and her second job from 4:00 – 8:00 in Pewaukee, La Casa's hours have been helpful. Both the operating hours and the caring staff have been so helpful to Ann. Her daughter Emelia's teacher immediately recognized that she had some pretty serious physical delays, not crawling, let alone walking. La Casa had her evaluated and created a plan for her. Finally she began to crawl at one year and now she can't even believe there was a concern-she is running everywhere!

Her son Zander, 5 years old, was having severe behavior and perhaps mental health issues, which caused Ann to miss several days of work. He was very aggressive, hurting other children and his teachers and his little sister at home. La Casa was able to work with Zander and not expel him. La Casa moved him to another classroom that was more appropriate for his level and with a teacher who is also a certified Occupational Therapist. Ms. Kari recognize his issues and has worked so hard to help him. Also, because of the her involvement, Zander's doctor is finally acknowledging Zander's issues and he is getting the help that he needs. And Zander now says that he really is a "good boy after all!"



Ann is determined to support her family. And right now, she just needs a little help and support until she can make it 100% on her own. And La Casa has been that support. She thinks of a two-parent family that has two partners to pay the bills and take care of the kids and make sure that everything else that needs

to happen is done. In her case, there is only one parent so La Casa is her partner. Ann loves her kids and every day is a struggle. She wants to have a normal routine and have supper with her kids at night. But even more, she wants her kids' lives to be easier than hers. Her kids are so happy to come here every day with smiles on their faces and they are learning and growing and she is working and they are getting better and better. Ann knows she has found the right place for her and her family.

Early Head Start Program



Early Head Start is a federally-funded, community-based program that provides early continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families, and pregnant women and their families.

Our **Home Based Education Program** includes personalized weekly home visits, family play groups, school readiness, parenting skills, family engagement, and socializations. Our **Center Based Program** is held in a high-quality, fun filled educational setting. The class sizes are small and we provide services in areas of health, mental health, nutrition, and disabilities.



Success Story



Served 156 families in 2016



Provided 24 socialization opportunities for families



Over 50 volunteers provided over 600 hours of service



500 plus minutes each month of family engagement through reading



Christina was born in Mexico and later worked for the Attorney General of Justice. She also had her own practice as a Human Rights Lawyer. She met her husband while he was visiting family in Mexico. A few years later they married and soon after Christina moved to Wisconsin to be with her husband.

Once she moved to Wisconsin, Christina enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and received her citizenship in March of 2016. Christina learned about the Early Head Start Program through flyers at WCTC and relatives. Christina and her husband were looking into options to help their son in his development, and the Early Head Start Program was a perfect fit.

Since enrolling their son in the Early Head Start Program, they see he is making great progress. At first he had some separation anxiety from Christina, but over time, the care and patience the teachers showed helped him feel comfortable and he is thriving. Christina loves when he comes home and shares what he learned while in the program. Now he is even showing interest in doing more activities at home. This program has also helped both Christina and her son learn English.



La Casa de Esperanza Char



On Thursday, June 2, 2016, La Casa de Esperanza Charter School graduated its first class of 40 5K scholars. Successfully completing their first year in the Charter School, as part of the ceremony, each student announced their future intention. Among the doctors, teachers, fireman, nurses, tradesmen, and engineers, was one future Jelly Belly Company worker, a wise scholar indeed.

In Fall, 2016, La Case de Esperanza Charter School added 1st Grade, part of its plan to continue to add one grade each year through the 8th Grade. 126 scholars enrolled in 4K-1st Grade accepted the challenges of a school with high expectations dedicated to preparing all students to be leaders in their high schools, post-secondary schools, careers, and communities.



ter School

Success Story

 **100%** parent
participation in parent-
teacher conferences

 **89%** average
attendance for the year

 **11** students achieved
perfect attendance

 **85%** of students attend
voluntary after-school



Just before Christmas break a year ago, the Brookfield Academy girls' basketball team was in need of a temporary

gym as theirs was being used for final exams. Coach John Schlagenhauf contacted La Casa about using their multi-purpose room and the practice was booked.

During the discussion about using the gym, John asked if the scholars in the Charter School would be interested in receiving a book. The plan was for the Academy girls to give each one of the Charter School students their very own book.

However, before the book exchange, the Academy girls ran some drills with the Charter School students. It was pretty obvious from the noise and laughter emanating from the gym that this was no longer a normal practice. After the games ended, the participants broke into small groups and the "big' sisters" presented the "little brothers and sisters" with a beautiful book that they could treasure forever.

From the hugs, smiles, and maybe even a tear or two that ensued, it was obvious all the kids, big and small, had a great time. And, perhaps unexpectedly, a tradition was born as the Brookfield Academy girls returned again this year to spread joy to the Charter School students...and maybe even to themselves!

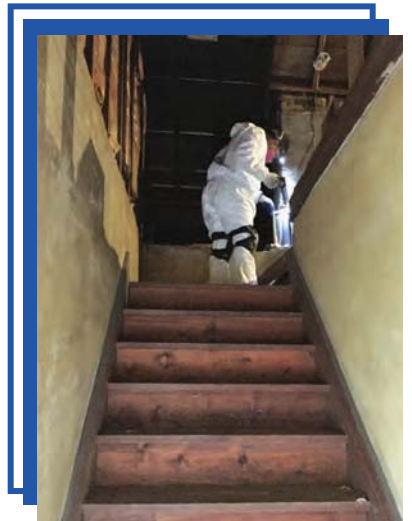


Weatherization




The La Casa de Esperanza Weatherization Assistance Program serves Jefferson, Milwaukee, and Waukesha Counties and provides free, weatherization services. La Casa Weatherization provides cost-effective, energy-saving measures and education for residential households. Weatherization involves reducing air drafts, improving household ventilation, eliminating harmful carbon monoxide levels, replacement or repair of heating and hot water systems and eliminating household conditions that waste energy.

The La Casa de Esperanza weatherization program saves energy through the application of advanced technologies to improve the energy affordability for low-income families. It also saves lives and improves the health and safety of families by identifying and correcting carbon monoxide hazards, poor indoor air quality problems, and other health threats.



 **\$360** average annual energy cost savings per home

 Weatherized over **1,200 homes** in 2016

 For every **\$1** invested, weatherization across the U.S. returns **\$4.71** to the household and society

 **4,669** barrels of oil saved and **5,408** metric tons of CO2 reduced

Success Story



On October 28th, La Casa de Esperanza celebrated **Weatherization Day.**

Weatherization Day is an annual opportunity to recognize the fact that low income households spend a disproportionate percentage of their income on home energy bills, and that weatherization programs reduce energy costs so residents can better balance their budgets.

Over 200 people attended Weatherization Day. Guests received energy tips, demonstrations, and even did a walk through of a client's home.



Louisa and her husband purchased their home in 1968. Throughout the years they made small improvements and remodeled their home. They have enjoyed raising their family there as well.

Louisa heard about the Weatherization Program through a friend. This was the first time that Louisa had heard about Energy Assistance or the Weatherization Program. She was not in need in the past, however over the years living primarily on social security benefits it came the time to ask for help. She thought it wouldn't hurt to inquire, so she applied and was accepted.

Louisa had several concerns about her home energy usage, heat loss and the overall comfort. "The bedroom on the west side, when the wind would blow from the North you could hear the wind. If you would touch the walls they were cold. You could clearly hear the sirens and train as if they were right outside my home."

When our Weatherization Auditors inspected Louisa's home they quickly detected the high energy usage. The insulation that was in her walls was packed down and condensed and didn't provide the correct amount of insulation that was needed. Our crew members added insulation in her walls, attic, and stairs leading up to the attic. Her refrigerator was replaced, along with venting her dryer hose. She also received a new chimney liner.

The two major differences Louisa immediately noticed were her thermostat has been set significantly lower and she can't hear the outside noises. Louisa is extremely thankful and appreciative for all the work.

Center for Financial Stability



La Casa de Esperanza offers a variety of workforce development and financial service programs through its Center for Financial Stability. We provide comprehensive employment training, financial, and asset-building services to low-income individuals who are unemployed or underemployed and are seeking economic self-sufficiency.

Financial Stability Initiative

- Helped **170** low income households improve their financial stability through 1 on 1 coaching and financial literacy education
- Successfully implemented the Employer-Based Financial Wellness Project – providing **428** coaching sessions to employees at Quad/Graphics, Weldall, Jorgensen Conveyors, and Dickten Masch

Employers Resource Network

- Worked with three employers to provide success coaching services to **129** employees resulting in improved attendance and on-time behaviors, improved morale, and decreased HR staff time being spent on employees' personal challenges.

VITA Program

- **1,406** individuals and families served
- **\$2,578,228** in tax refunds (primarily spent in Waukesha County)
- **\$430,937** in tax refunds saved
- **140** Free Credit Report Coaching sessions provided

Workforce Development/Employment Program

- Provided recruiting services to **335** employers
- Served **130** clients, helping:
 - **123** improve their job interviewing skills
 - **100** improve their job search skills

Success Story

Amber Thompson

Collaboration: *La Casa de Esperanza's Center for Financial Stability, Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative, Housing Resources Inc., Habitat for Humanity*

Amber enrolled in La Casa's Financial Stability Initiative in November 2008. When Amber started with the Program, she had two sons - Dominic 10, and Andres 11. In 2010, she had a third son Gabe. She lived with her parents, who helped her with the children. She also paid her rent money to her parents. They lived in a two bedroom apartment with one bathroom. She worked at Kwik Trip earning \$9.50 per hour. Amber was facing a number of challenges. Her wages were being garnished, her child support was about to be lowered, she had no car insurance, she paid \$300 to \$400 to get her income taxes done, she was behind on her energy bill and other bills, her phone was disconnected, she was using payday loans to pay rent and buy groceries (892% on a loan for \$175), and she had no savings or budget. When our Financial Coach, Gina, asked Amber, "If you could change something about your current situation, what would it be?" Amber responded, "Everything."

Coach Gina worked with Amber to identify her goals, which included learning to budget, cleaning up and reestablishing good credit, and buying a home within 5 years. They developed short- and long-term plans to help her achieve her goals. Gradually, over the next 8 years, Amber and her Coach tackled the steps in her action plan. Coach Gina pulled Amber's credit report and taught her how to read and understand it. Amber's credit score was 487. Next, Amber kept track of her expenses and she and Gina developed a budget. Gina helped Amber see that she needed to find higher paying employment in order to cover her expenses. They revised Amber's resume and she began looking for a new job. Amber obtained a job as an Administrative Assistant at Ahern, which increased her income by \$14,000 a year and included employee benefits.

Over the years, Amber learned to manage her budget and finances, paid her bills on time, and paid off her debts. Amber began to consistently save and started investing in a 401K. By 2015, she had saved \$8,000. She had her tax returns prepared through La Casa's free tax program and used her refund as a cushion for paying bills and rent.

In February 2015, Amber was ready to take final steps to purchasing her first home. She submitted her application for a Habitat for Humanity home. La Casa enrolled her in a Federal Savings Match Program, in which she saved \$2,000 and earned a match of \$4,000, totaling \$6,000 toward buying a Habitat for Humanity Home. La Casa's Modern Woodmen of America Council awarded her \$200 in household goods for her new home.

In January of 2016, the Financial Stability Initiative team and Habitat for Humanity were thrilled to present Amber and her family the keys to their new home in Waukesha!



La Casa Village I & II



La Casa Village I & II provide affordable, safe housing for low income senior citizens and mobility impaired individuals. Both La Casa Village I and II feature a variety of amenities for residents such as a secured building with keyed entry, a community room, on-site laundry facilities, guest speakers, and social gatherings. La Casa Village I is also a meal site location operated by the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Waukesha County. Over 300 lunches are served Monday thru Friday for tenants of La Casa Village I & II and Seniors in the community who are 60 years old or older.



We love to share community partnerships! The tenants of La Casa Village II spent time cleaning out their closets and donated their items to the Hope Center.

Success Story

🏠 **Provided affordable housing for 46 residents in La Casa Village I and 19 residents in La Casa Village II**

🏠 **22% of the residents of La Casa Village I are minorities, and 33% have a documented disability**

🏠 **26% of residents in La Casa Village II are minorities, and 37% have a documented disability**

🏠 **Served 8,065 meals in 2016 through the ADRC of Waukesha County Dining Program located at La Casa Village I**



Karyl Cleveland has been a tenant at La Casa Village since 2012. She moved to Waukesha from Milwaukee because she wanted a change of scenery.

Karyl has enjoyed herself since she has lived here and feels the people are very friendly.

She has been able to meet people from different cultures and she has had opportunities to participate in different activities.

One of the biggest things she loves is the meal site at La Casa Village. It allows Karyl to socialize and receive a warm meal.

Karyl feels comfortable to go out and go shopping at the nearby stores by herself.

La Casa's Service Coordinator, Sandy, has helped her receive low cost internet, energy assistance, and learn more about her community.

Living in Waukesha has been a very positive experience and she feels that all of the staff are fun and wonderful.

2016 Board Rosters



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Telemundo Wisconsin

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CPS, Crowe Horwath LLP

“A focused Board concentrates on strategy oversight and governance practices, to avoid getting lost in the forest.” – Pearl Zhu



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La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.

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Ms. Kerry Gillis

AAA Travel & Insurance

Ms. Xochitl Driscoll (Secretary)

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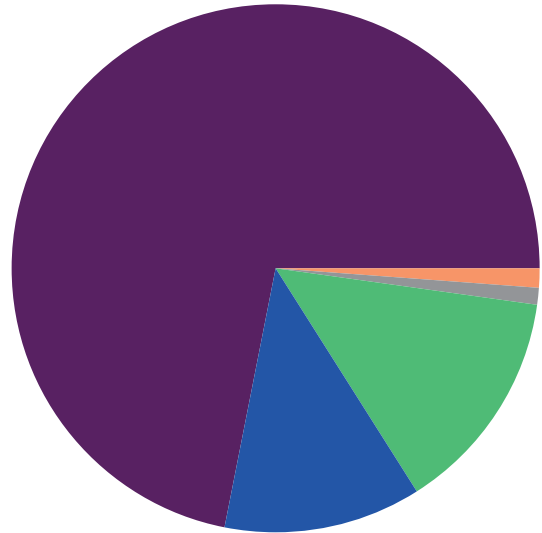
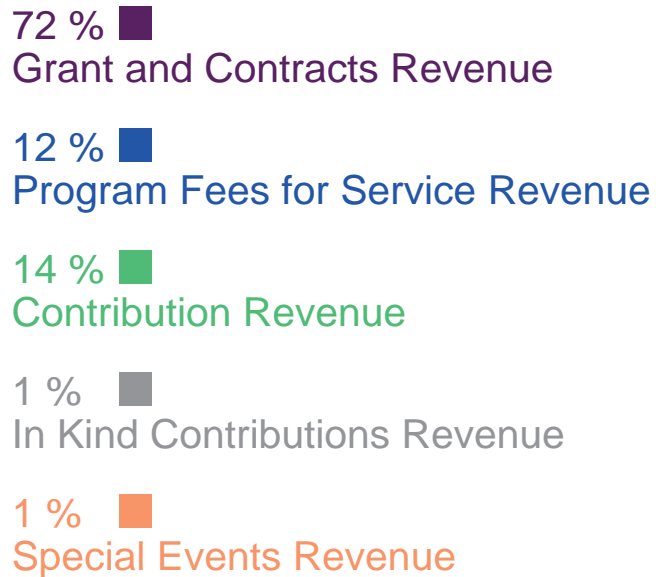
Heil Financial Group

Mr. Anselmo Villarreal

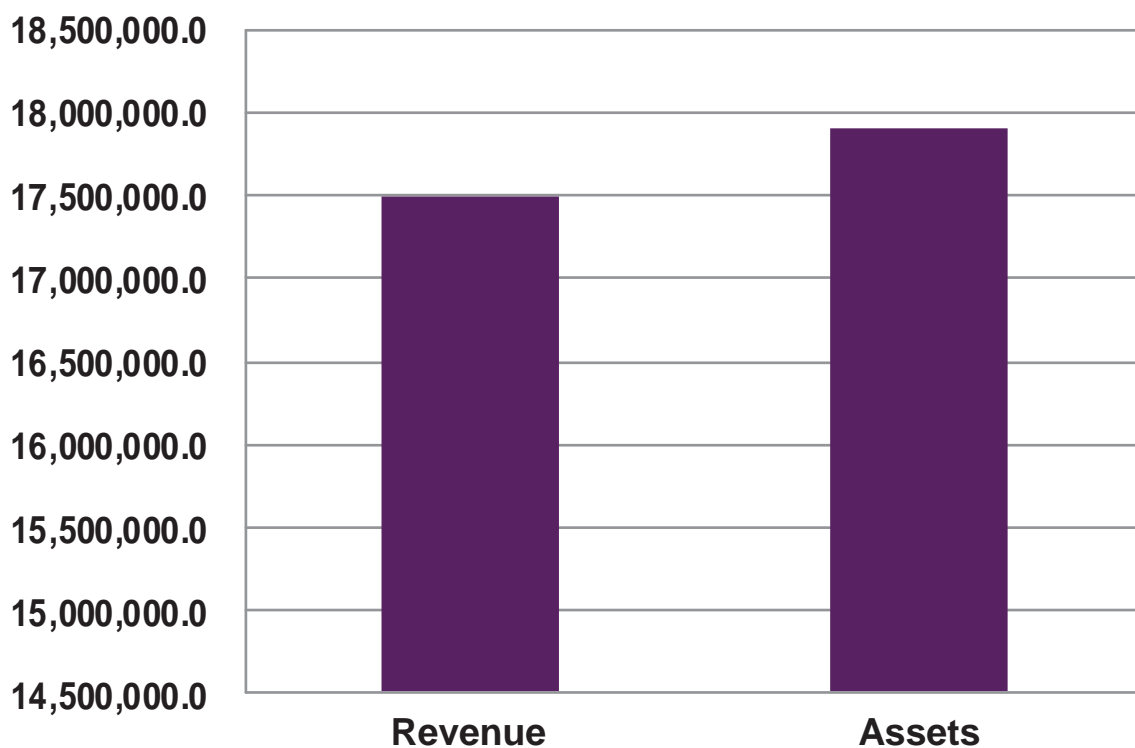
La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.

Financial Data

Revenue Sources

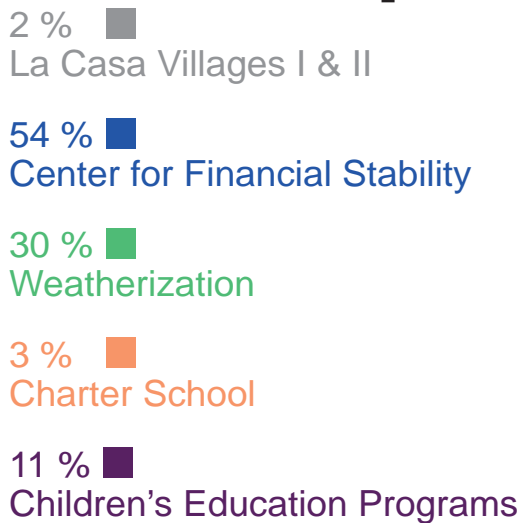


Revenue and Assets

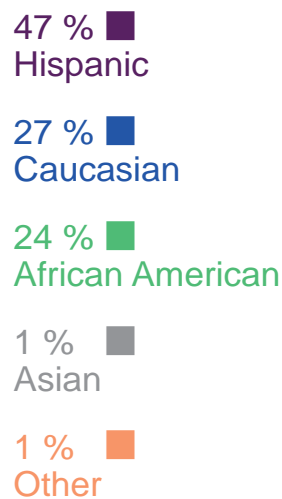


Participant Data

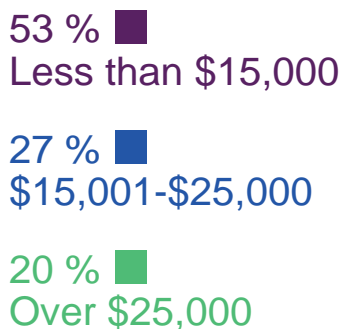
Participants by Program



Participants by Race/Ethnicity



Participants by Income



Thank You to All Ou

Abt, Stephanie
 Action Heating
 Al or Norma Rae Exner Trust
 Allen, Scott
 Alliance for Strong Families
 and Communities
 Alpine Plumbing, Inc.
 AM Construction Services Inc.
 Ambuel, Bruce & Helen
 Amundson Insulation Inc.
 Andersen, Laurel
 Anderson, Tom & Barb
 Angel, Hector
 Anonymous
 Applewood Drywall
 Arcos, Ana
 Auer Steel
 Axa Foundation
 Bacon, Peter
 Badger Acoustics Inc.
 Basaj, Barbara
 Beacon Lights Club of
 Waukesha
 Beer Capitol Distributing
 Co., Inc.
 Bergman, David
 Bestway Transfer &
 Storage, Inc.
 Blackman, Mark & Jane
 Blum, LA & EJ
 Bob and Hanna Nevins
 Family Fund
 Bob's Glass Service
 Bockman, Cynthia
 Boczkiewicz, Valorie
 Bonness, Loretta
 Braun, Christopher & Sandra

Bronfman E L Rothschild LP
 Brooks, Amy
 Bryant, Tony & Andrea
 Buck, Dr. Gregory
 Burr, Virginia
 Cabrera, Jesus
 Campbell, Don & Shari
 Campos, Nibardo
 Cardinal Fabricating Corp
 Carlson, Blau & Clemens SC



Carmona, Daniella
 Carrillo, Maria
 Carroll University
 Casey, Kristy
 Castillo, Jose Luis & Ana
 Catholic Memorial High School
 Cesarz Charapata &
 Zinnecker
 Chaidez, Alejandrina
 Champion Insulation Inc.
 Charapata, Mary Lou
 Charles J Becker and Bro Inc.

Chay, Marchall
 Children's Hospital of
 Wisconsin
 Chivers, Linda
 Citizens Bank
 Collins, Paige
 Community Foundation of
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 Community of the
 Living Spirit
 Congdon, Rick & Linda
 Correa, Sarai
 Cortez, Jesse & Ann
 Cortez, Mario
 Couri, Judith & Jerry
 Cudahy Roofing and
 Supply Inc.
 Cummings, David
 Dalum Family Foundation
 Davis, Kristi
 De La Paz, Carmen
 De Los Santos, Joao
 De Los Santos, Patricia
 DeGrave, Patrick
 Delgado, Misael
 Dierks Waukesha
 Ditscheit, Julianne & Larry
 DMJ Services, LLC
 Dominguez, Luciano
 Dorow, Brian & Jennifer
 Dreyfus, Judge Lee & Susan
 Dubord, Michelle
 Dunn, Michael & Patricia
 Edgar Prager and Sons
 Elmbrook Church
 Erwin, Michael & Nancy
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r Generous Donors

Espinoza, Jose
 Essig, Greg
 Ever Dry Waterproofing
 Farrow, Paul & Amy
 Fedrick, Kenneth
 Fell Bell Clean
 Felss Rotaform LLC
 Fidelity Charitable
 File, Nancy
 Fillman, Alan & Patricia
 FINRA
 First Bank Financial Center
 First Federal Bank of
 Wisconsin
 Fleck Foundation
 Fleckenstein, Andy & Janice
 Flores, Tom
 Forest County Potawatomi
 Foundation
 Forston Construction Co LLC
 Franco, George
 Frank, Chad & Effie
 Frank, Suzanne R.
 Freiberg, Kerry
 Fricano, Joseph
 Froedtert & Community
 Memorial Hospital
 Froedtert and the Medical
 College of Wisconsin
 Gallun, Martin & Angela
 GE Foundation
 GE United Way Campaign
 Gerald and Sharon Wadina
 Family Foundation
 Geraldson , David & Velma
 Gilbane, Inc.
 Gillis, Kerry
 Goetz, James

Gonzalez, Ailec
 Gonzalez, Alex
 Gonzalez, Andres & Jessica
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 Foundation, Inc.
 Greater Milwaukee
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 Anthony and Andrea
 Bryant Family
 Greve, Jami L.
 Gutierrez, Fred
 Gutierrez, Raul
 Guzman, Andres
 Haag, Scott
 Hader, Joan
 Halquist Stone Company
 Halquist, Thomas
 Hamkins, Mary
 Hartmann, Joseph
 Hartz, Matthew
 Hauser, Mary E
 Hearst Foundations, Inc.
 Heitman Inc.
 Helfer, Steve
 Helling, Dave & Bonnie Birk
 Herb Kohl Philanthropies
 Hill, Mary Beth & Roger
 Huerta, Tlaloc
 Huettenrauch, Clarence
 Husco International
 Idarraga, Lisa
 Inpro Corporation
 InTec
 J&B Insurance and
 Financial Services
 Janssen, Leon & Elizabeth
 Jelem, Adam
 Johnson Bank

Jolin, James & Kathleen
 Just Service Inc.
 Kabitzke, Deborah
 Kappl, Christopher & Kristin
 Katayama, Alice
 Killebrew, Sheila
 King, Kevin & Patricia
 Koenen, Kyle
 Kohler, Lynda
 Kohls Corporation
 Kollmansberger, Ginger
 Koprowski, Dennis & Suzanne
 Krajacic, Jeffry
 Krause, Shanna
 Lamb, Robert
 Lancaster, David & Julia
 Landmark Credit Union
 Lang, Liz
 Latin American Adoptive
 Families of WI
 Latino Arts Inc.
 Lazu, Felicita
 Lebron, Maria
 Lesperance, Daisy
 Lettenberger, Peter & Kay
 Lewandowski, Mark & Anna
 Libre Institute
 Living Hope Presbyterian
 Church
 Livingston, David
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Meeting Challenges



They say history has a way of repeating itself and for the La Casa de Esperanza Charter School building campaign that means great things for the students of the new La Casa de Esperanza Charter School.

At Annual Dinner 50th Anniversary Celebration in February, 2016, Kathy Nell stood up before the audience and announced a \$500,000 challenge grant tied to the La Casa de Esperanza Charter School building campaign. Recognizing the importance of a school dedicated to reducing the achievement gap facing low-low income children, Kathy presented a check for \$250,000 to CEO and President Dr. Anselmo Villarreal and promised another \$250,000 if La Casa raised \$2.5 million dollars in the next few months. With the challenge grant as the source of motivation, La Casa's board, leadership, and volunteers worked hard and raised close to \$3,000,000 dollars, meeting both the donor's challenge and providing the resources necessary to break ground on the new building.





Well, as Yogi Berra famously said, its déjà vu all over again. In December, 2016, a Milwaukee area foundation notified Dr. Villarreal that they would like to support the mission of the new charter school and issued another \$500,000 challenge grant. For this particular donor, the rules were pretty simple as well. When La Casa raises \$1,000,000, the donor will write a check for \$500,000.

It is a significant amount of money to be raised, but Dr. Villarreal stated “Our donors see the importance of our school and challenge us to earn their support. We know it is a significant amount of money to be raised and we will mobilize all our people and resources to make sure we reach the goal. Our students deserve it.”

La Casa scholars accept the challenge to reach for the stars every day. Thanks to individuals, corporations, and foundations from Waukesha, Milwaukee and across the nation for accepting the challenge to help our scholars defeat the achievement gap by providing a building where they can grow, prosper, and succeed.



