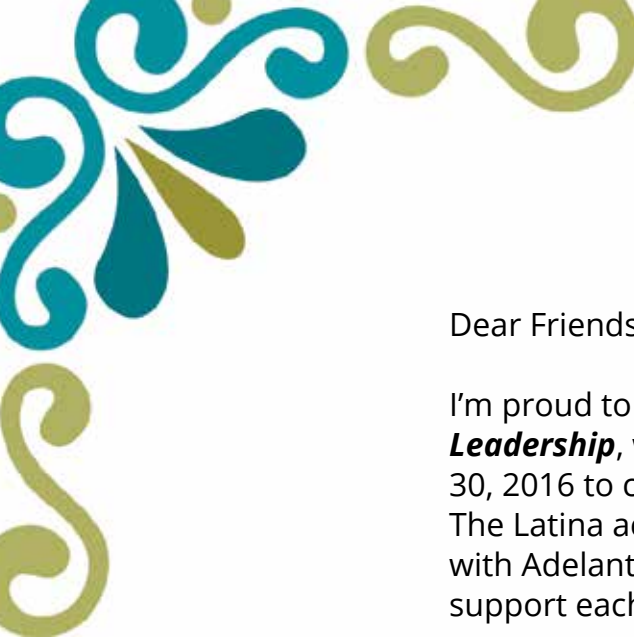


FISCAL YEAR 2017
Annual Report

Honoring Latina Leadership



casa de
esperanza



A message FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

I'm proud to share Casa de Esperanza's 2016-17 Annual Report with you. Our theme is ***Honoring Latina Leadership***, which also is the title of one of the year's highlights, a special event we held on September 30, 2016 to celebrate the contributions that Latinas of all ages make to our families and communities. The Latina activists, community organizers, entrepreneurs, teachers, and youth mentors we honored with Adelante Esperanza awards further our mission by lifting up the best qualities in the people they support each day.

There is no other Latina organization in the country that is as deeply rooted in community, yet has such a national reach, as ours. In the past year, we provided direct services and advocacy for 426 women and children who experienced domestic violence, including some who stayed in our Refugio. We also continued to build on the inherent strengths of Latin@ youth and adults by providing training on leadership development and domestic violence to 77 Amig@s who created community action projects that reached an additional 3,044 people throughout the Twin Cities and neighboring suburbs.

Nationally, we lead by training and providing technical assistance to thousands of individuals and community based organizations and by being at the forefront of research that contributes to best practices for culturally specific approaches to preventing and ending domestic violence. We also are using what we learn from listening to community to provide vital leadership in the area of public policy, as illustrated in a May 30 article in Time magazine titled *Deportation Fears Silence Some Domestic Violence Victims* (<http://time.com/4798422/domestic-violence-deportation-immigration/>).

Our work is made possible by a dedicated board and staff, the generous contributions of our donors and volunteers, and the many partners who share our commitment to ending gender-based violence. Thank you all for supporting Latina and Latin@ community leadership.

With deepest gratitude,

Patricia J. Tototzintle, CEO

Family Advocacy



Upper: Family advocacy staff attend the Honoring Latina Leadership event held at the Minneapolis Event center
Lower: Teresa Rodriguez presents Sandra L. Vargas with an original work of art by National Latin@ Network staff Jose Juan Lara Jr.

The Family Advocacy services for Latinas and their families we provided included: *El Refugio* (24-hour crisis shelter), a 24-hour bilingual crisis line, transitional housing support, mobile advocacy (meeting survivors in their homes or community settings to share information and resources), and referrals to other service providers.

In 2016-17, we served 426 women and children. Of this total, 46 women and 45 children lived at *El Refugio* with an average stay of 63 days. The majority of women we served reported that they increased their resiliency and made great strides toward rebuilding their lives: 94% developed a safety plan, 62% improved their financial situation, 77% accessed either/or social supports and/or community resources, and 85% demonstrated that they were implementing plans to meet their personal goals.

Community Engagement



Upper: Patti Tototzintle, CEO, Norma Garces, Adelante Esperanza Award Recipient, with her son, and Teresa Rodriguez at the Honoring Latina Leadership event.

Lower: Dana Rees and Maribel Escobar, Adelante Esperanza Award Recipient. Maribel received the award in recognition of her work with Latin@ communities in Richfield, MN.

Through our Community Engagement initiatives, we helped Latin@ community members and allies to develop their leadership skills to help end domestic violence, primarily through our Fuerza Unida Amig@s initiative. In 2016-17, 77 Amig@s received training on domestic violence prevention and community engagement strategies. They led community action projects that reached 3,044 community members throughout the Twin Cities and neighboring suburbs.

One of the community action projects for Youth Amig@s is to organize an annual youth conference. In February 2017, it was held at Inver Hills Community College and included human trafficking, drug abuse, self-care through art and yoga, and LGBTQ Latin@ identities as topics. For youth in particular, completing Fuerza Unida Amig@s training can be a critical step in their maturation and the public presentation, project management, and community engagement skills are highly-transferrable to their future academic and employment tracks.



Youth Initiatives



With the support of a girlsBest planning grant from the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, we completed listening sessions with 56 Latina girls which gave us valuable information we will use to supplement programming to better meet their needs. This includes more activities to strengthen their relationships with their parents and to help them identify more options for education and careers.



Toward that end, all of the female Amig@s in 9th grade were encouraged to apply to the First Step Summer Institute, offered through Saint Catherine University (St. Kate's). This is a free, four-day long residential college immersion experience on St. Kate's campus that prepares young women of color and/or Indigenous women for higher education. This was a highly competitive selection process, with 50 spots available with preference given to sophomores and juniors. All six of our Amig@s were accepted, even though they all were freshmen, because their essays reflected maturity and thoughtfulness, demonstrating the impact of their participation in Fuerza Unida Amig@s.

*Upper: Members of our Youth Amig@s Initiative at the Honoring Latina Leadership event. Left to Right: Grace Hamilton, Marissa Kurtz, Lynn Kawabata, Lilibeth Castro Montoya, Adrian Armendariz, Nallely Castro Montoya, and Omar Leal.
Lower: Art created by Youth Amig@s, a collaboration with Free Arts MN.*



Training & Technical Assistance



Participants at the International Convening of Multiplicadoras: Beyond Borders in Miami, FL.

As a National Culturally Specific Special Issue Resource Center whose focus is working within Latin@ communities, Casa de Esperanza supports prevention and intervention efforts across the country to end domestic and dating violence. We provide training and technical assistance to Latin@ and domestic violence organizations, mainstream agencies that work with Latinas and their families, and organizations that serve other culturally specific communities.

In FY2017, 4,798 individuals participated in specialized trainings and conferences that we held in Denver, Memphis, Miami, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. Topics we trained on included culturally specific services, language access, grant management, Latin@ domestic violence advocacy, and public policy.

Our Miami conference, titled International Multiplicadoras Exchange: Beyond Borders, brought together activists from the U.S., Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Puerto Rico to exchange what we've learned by responding to and preventing gender based violence using media and community engagement strategies.



Research & Evaluation



The research team: Josie Serrata, Director of Research & Evaluation, Martha Hernandez Martinez, Research/Program Manager, Rebecca Rodriguez, Research Manager, Ana Hernandez, Research & Publications Analyst

• The research and evaluation team continued to elevate culturally-specific practice and Latin@ realities throughout their work and presented their research projects at five national research and evaluation conferences. Their seminal paper on community centered evidence based practice (CCEBP) was published in the Psychology of Violence in January 2017 and they partnered with our technical assistance staff to create a guide for practitioners titled Trauma Informed Principles through a Culturally Specific Lens.

• Another highlight of the year was the completion of a major trauma informed and culturally-specific research study with Latina survivors. Each organization that participated in that study received an individualized report on the findings compiled by Dr. Rebecca Rodriguez along with recommendations for technical assistance. Martha Hernandez led a blogtalk titled A Conversation on the Impact of Human Trafficking in the Latin@ Communities. Finally, the research team also contributed to the field by mentoring doctoral level graduate students in Latin@ relevant research and collaborating with the Latina Researchers Network and LA RED in thought leadership, including an academic presentation on the promotion of Latin@ specific research and evaluation.

Public Policy



Senior Director of Public Policy Rosie Hidalgo returned to Casa de Esperanza in 2017 after spending two years working at the Department of Justice and with the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women.

During this year, Casa de Esperanza reinvigorated the public policy branch of the National Latin@ Network by establishing a new department head. Rosie Hidalgo left her position as Deputy Director for Policy at the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) at the U.S. Department of Justice to serve as our Senior Director of Public Policy, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge concerning violence against women, immigration, domestic and sexual violence intervention and prevention, Latin@ realities, and limited English proficient populations.

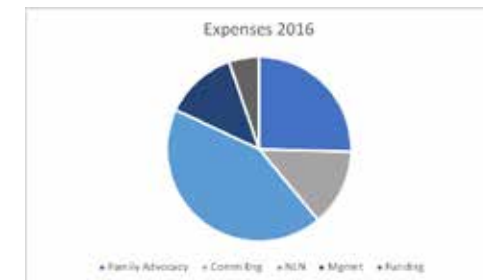
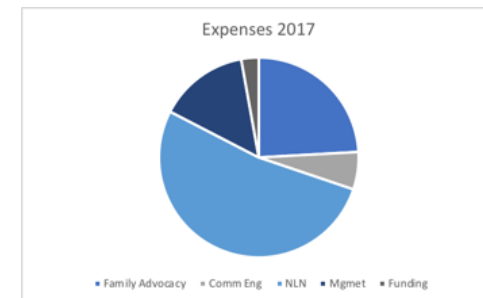
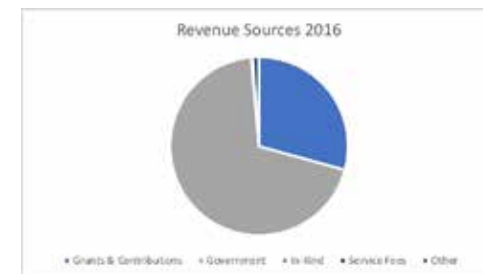
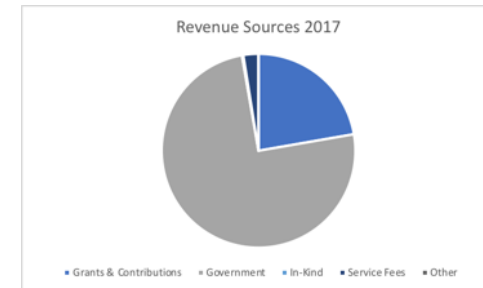
Her mission is to boost the policy and advocacy work of the organization to identify priority public policy concerns and bring the voices and lived realities of Latin@ survivors and communities to the table to influence national policy in efforts to end domestic and sexual violence and support healthy families and communities. This includes collaboration among the policy, research, and national training & technical assistance initiatives of the NLN to highlight the needs and opportunities to improve access to safety, justice, and well-being for immigrant survivors.

Financials

Operations	2017	2016
Revenue Sources		
Grants & Contributions	\$ 848,264	\$ 966,705
Government	\$ 2,856,171	\$ 2,287,854
In-Kind	\$ 8,884	\$ 9,327
Service Fees	\$ 95,467	\$ 37,344
Other	\$ 533	\$ 57
Total Revenue & Support	\$ 3,809,319	\$ 3,301,287

Expense		
Family Advocacy	\$ 912,787	\$ 913,919
Fuerza Unida/Community Engagement	\$ 229,610	\$ 185,024
National Training & TA	\$ 1,984,090	\$ 1,544,535
Total Program Services	\$ 3,126,487	\$ 2,643,477
Management & General	\$ 551,802	\$ 453,584
Fundraising	\$ 107,460	\$ 190,214
Total Expense	\$ 3,785,749	\$ 3,287,275

Balance Sheet	2017	2016
Current Assets		
Net Property & Equipment	\$ 50,416	\$ 47,489
Other Assets	\$ -	\$ 28,821
Total Assests	\$ 986,529	\$ 976,917
Total Liabilities	\$ 533,317	\$ 383,793
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 70,869	\$ 47,299
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 382,343	\$ 545,825
Total Liabilities & Net Assests	\$ 986,529	\$ 976,917



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