



# 2008 Annual Report

## La Oportunidad, Inc.

*Championing the development of Latino individuals and families to create a strong, peaceful community.*





La Oportunidad is an internationally recognized and leading provider of family-centered, educational and supportive programs that are bilingual and bicultural/culturally competent for Latinos. The organization's mission is to **champion the development of Latino individuals and families to create a strong, peaceful community**. A nonprofit 501c3 organization created in 1987, La Oportunidad achieves its mission through comprehensive, researched-based programs, services, community outreach and collaborations.



## 2008 Successes

Despite the state of the economy, La Oportunidad experienced another successful year in 2008. The organization significantly exceeded its program goals, expanded programming and organizational capacity, and continued implantation of its strategic plan for 2008-2010. As a result, the organization positively impacted thousands of individuals in its efforts to build a strong, peaceful community.



Approximately **1,598 parents, children and youth benefited from direct services programs at La Oportunidad**: El Camino children's program, Latino Youth Program, Padres parenting, and Latinos Ending Abuse Program help Latino children, youth, adults, and families in the Twin Cities metro to achieve greater capacity, develop practical skills, nurture healthy relationships, and build a stronger community



**The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Youth Peace Conference**: 200 students from across the Twin Cities metro gathered at Metro State University to explore ways of achieving peace in the community. Students developed a plan of action to implement and achieve peace in their schools and communities.



**La Feria, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Family Resource Fair**: 85 bilingual education, health, and social service providers connected with 2,000 community members to increase awareness and access to services.

La Oportunidad has helped mobilize educational resources and increase access to education for Latino families through the **Latino Youth Development Collaborative**.



Approximately **20,000 individuals benefited from educational community outreach**, including viewers of the En Familia (In the Family) television program.

# EL CAMINO CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



## EL CAMINO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The El Camino (The Path) Children's Programs provide bilingual and bicultural school-based groups and summer programming to Twin Cities Latino children. El Camino assists children in developing positive attitudes and behaviors in the areas of self, family, and community that will reduce their vulnerability to negative behaviors in their adolescence. El Camino serves as a compliment to the formal academic learning process, helping to improve school success while increasing the children's awareness of the importance of education and staying in school. Weekly after-school cultural support groups are provided to Latino children, ages 5 to 11, at area elementary schools throughout the school year. These groups present a bilingual and bicultural violence prevention and intervention curriculum, which help children to develop specific skills to improve self-esteem, develop practical skills, strengthen their capacity, and build resiliency for lifelong success. The groups not only help Latino children build skills and assets but also provide a supportive, nurturing environment where the children can explore their cultural heritage, maintain or improve their Spanish language skills, and establish nurturing relationships with program staff, parents, volunteers, and teachers.



### 2008 OUTCOMES

- In 2008, El Camino direct programming served 390 Twin Cities Latino children.
- 90% of participants completed the programming.
- 88% of participants reported and exhibited increased positive feelings about themselves and their identity.
- 88% of participants reported increased satisfaction in relationships with their friends, families, and teachers.
- 90% of participants reported an increased awareness of their role and involvement in their school and community.

# LATINO YOUTH PROGRAMS

## LATINO YOUTH PROGRAMS

Latino Youth Programs provide bilingual and bicultural weekly school-year groups, a mentorship program, a leadership program, an annual Peace Conference, summer programming, and special activities. Latino Youth Programs assist Latino adolescents in developing positive attitudes and behaviors in the areas of education, self, family, and community that will help them to become positive, contributing members of the community. Most teens say they need to know more about financial issues, but the topic is often neglected at home. A Latino Youth Program staff with a knowledge base providing financial literacy education has been hired to increase the quality of financial wellness programming.



### 2008 OUTCOMES

- In 2008, Latino Youth Programs direct programming served 725 Twin Cities Latino youth.
- 88% of participants completed the programming.
- 90% of participants reported an increased participation in their education and life goals.
- 91% of participants reported an increased sense of self-esteem and self-worth.
- 89% of participants reported improved communications at home and with family members.
- 89% of participants reported an increase in their ability to make a positive contribution in their school and community.

# PADRES PARENTING PROGRAMS

## PADRES PARENTING PROGRAMS

Padres Parenting Programs provide year-round comprehensive programming to empower Latino parents with the tools necessary to support their children's education, and raise healthy, well-adjusted children who will contribute to their communities. Padres Parenting Programs are parenting education and support programs offered in Spanish to Latino parents in the Twin Cities metro area. Weekly parenting education and support groups use a culturally specific curriculum that is based on solid parenting education research both at the local and national levels. The program helps Latino parents learn positive parenting techniques that improve their parenting skills and abilities. La Oportunidad also provides parents with tools to navigate their children's educational system. Through community workshops, visibility in the media, peer parent mentors, individual referrals and guidance, and assistance in parent-teacher conferences, La Oportunidad facilitates parental involvement to encourage children's educational success.



### 2008 OUTCOMES

- In 2008, Padres direct programming served 280 Twin Cities Latino parents; numerous additional parents received assistance through partnerships, indirect outreach, and short-term events.
- 94% of participants successfully completed the program.
- 91% of respondents developed positive parenting skills and reported applying them in their families.
- 94% of respondents developed a stronger parenting support system in the community.
- 95% of respondents reported improved family relationships.
- 92% of the parents who participated in the Padres Parenting Program Increased participation in their children's education.

# LATINOS ENDING ABUSE PROGRAM

## LATINOS ENDING ABUSE PROGRAM

The Latinos Ending Abuse Program (LEAP) helps Latino adults to learn and apply skills to end violent behavior in their relationships, families, and communities. Participants in LEAP receive education and support that address cultural perspectives and factors surrounding patterns of violence and abuse. This program acknowledges the importance of targeting the causes of abuse while providing education and tools to promote non-violent behaviors. The program has been very successful in providing adult offenders with the tools to develop healthy relationships. LEAP is modifying the curriculum to include a financial wellness module.



### 2008 OUTCOMES

- The LEAP program served 203 Latino adults.
- 93% of participants successfully completed the program.
- 92% of participants reported increased understanding of domestic violence and the impact on the family.
- 90% of participants reported applying learned concepts and skills as an alternative to domestic violence.
- 89% of participants reported improved family relationships.
- 91% of participants did not re-offend after completion of the program.

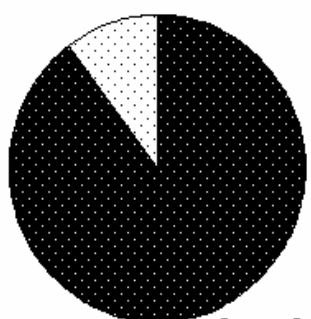
## CONTRIBUTORS, SUPPORTERS, AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Foundation & Corporation Support

3M Foundation  
 Ameriprise Financial  
 Andersen Foundation, Elmer & Eleanor  
 Anonymous  
 Bigelow Foundation, F.R.  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota  
 Bremer Foundation, Otto  
 Butler Family Foundation, Patrick & Aimee  
 Carlson Foundation  
 ClearWay MN<sup>SM</sup>  
 Epworth Methodist Church  
 Hispanics in Philanthropy  
 Imation Corporation  
 Kopp Family Foundation  
 Marbrook Foundation  
 Medica Foundation  
 Metropolitan Health Plan  
 McKnight Foundation  
 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council  
 O'Neill Foundation, Casey Albert T.  
 Piper Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation  
 Thompson Reuters  
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
 UCare  
 United Health Corporation  
 US Bank  
 Van Konynenburg Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation  
 Wells Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation  
 Wells Fargo Foundation of Minnesota

### Government, School, and Other Support

Andersen Open and Elementary School  
 Bloomington Public Schools  
 City of Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights  
 City of Minneapolis Health and Family Support  
 City of Minneapolis Empowerment Zone  
 Combined Federal Campaign  
 Dakota County, Corrections  
 Folwell Middle School  
 Greater Twin Cities United Way  
 Hennepin County, Children and Families  
 Hennepin County, Corrections  
 Hennepin County Office of Multi-cultural Services  
 Jefferson Elementary School  
 R. Green Central School  
 Ramsey County, Corrections  
 Richfield Middle School  
 Robbinsdale Area Schools  
 Sanford Middle School  
 State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety  
 Target Donor Designated Funds  
 Whittier Elementary School  
 YWCA of Minneapolis

	2008		2007		
Unrestricted Contributions & Grants	\$ 417,025	57%	\$ 457,422	61%	Management & Fundraising, \$80,700 11% 
Government Service Fees	\$ 232,843	32%	\$ 198,376	26%	
All Other Revenues	\$ 74,018	11%	\$ 99,741	13%	
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 732,886</b>		<b>\$ 755,539</b>		
Program Services	\$ 676,070	89%	\$ 648,260	90%	
Management & Fundraising	\$ 80,700	11%	\$ 73,540	10%	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 756,770</b>		<b>\$ 721,800</b>		
Change in Net Assets	\$ (32,884)		\$ 33,739		
Beginning Net Assets	\$ 399,433		\$ 365,694		
<b>Net Assets Ending</b>	<b>\$ 366,549</b>		<b>\$ 399,433</b>		



## CONTRIBUTORS, SUPPORTERS, AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Individual Donors

---

Anonymous	Brien Lenk
Jim Angelos	Rosa Littenken
Demian Arenas	Mary Lowen
Bernice Arias-Sather	Naomi Lund
Pamela Augustin	Jessica McBride
Jose Barra	Allison Mcqee
Pamela Barragan	Julissa Medrano
Maria Benavides	Kristine Mogollon
Timothy Beradinis	Gladys Negrete-Lampat
Lynn Bergin	William F. Nelson
Debra Braun	Josh Ortiz
Philip and Carolyn Brunelle	Melissa Ostley
Tiffany Calderon	Bonnie Paczkowski
Lourdes Cancel Rodriguez	Alice Peña
Monica DeCastro	Charles Prentice
Ruby Diaz	Jose Puerto Van Heck Roja
Eloisa Echavez	Susan Ranney
Christine Espinoza	Beatriz Rivera
Linda Freemon	John Romano
Alex. J. Gonzalez	Mark Sauntry
Maria Gonzalez-O'Brien	Aileen Seoane
Joyce Grublesky	Kristin Shane
Stephen Indvik	Shirley Sinclair
Maria Johnson	Sarah Smith
Geralynn Kephart-Strong	Antelmo Solano
James Kilborn	Maureen Springer
Julio Lacayo	Jeannet Valencia
Patricia Lacayo	David and Lynn Vander Haar
Amanda Lagrange	Nora Vega
David Laurent	Eric Wengreen
Tambri Lawless	Nora Zamorano
Angel Ledesma	

### In-Kind Contributions

---

Camp Menogyn	Medica
Blue Cross Blue Sheild of Minnesota	Metro State University
Emmett Timmons	The Hub Bike Coop
La Loma Tamales	UCare Minnesota
Loh Shih Hurng	YWCA of Minneapolis at Midtown
Manny's Tortas	

*This list includes contributions from January 1, 2008-December 31, 2008. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. However, if we have overlooked anyone, we apologize and would greatly appreciate being notified. Please call us at 612-872-6165. **Thank you for supporting La Oportunidad!***

## Current Board of Directors

---

**Alex González, President**

*Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*

**Maria Gonzalez-O'Brien, Vice President**

*Ameriprise Financial*

**Linda Freemon, Secretary**

*eV3*

**William Nelson, Treasurer**

*Volunteers of America*

**Pamela Barragán**

*St. Paul Police Department*

**Silvana Brown**

*eV3*

**María Ramírez Johnson**

*Retired Mpls Public Schools Teacher*

**Sarah Smith**

*Medtronic*

## Board Advisors

---

**Eduardo Bernal Díaz**

*Community Volunteer*

**Katherine Fitzsimmons**

*Farmer's Hat Productions*

**Sandra Vargas**

*The Minneapolis Foundation*

## Current Staff

---

**Haley Buenzli, Volunteer Coordinator-Program Assistant**

**Megan Craig-Casmer, Program Coordinator**

**Eloisa Echávez, Executive Director**

**Rocio Horwath, Program Coordinator**

**Carla Miller, Finance Coordinator**

**Hugo Muñoz, Program Director**

**Teofilo Nuñez, Program Coordinator**

**Maria Silvia Pichardo, Program Coordinator**

**Maureen Springer, Program Coordinator**

**Maria Vallejo, Program Coordinator**

**José Luis Villaseñor, Program Coordinator**

## Mentors

---

Megan Craig-Casmer

Kriselda Cuellar

Olga Maria Fernandez Solivan

Rafael Harrington

Anne Knauff

Akyssa Kohn

Josey Landrieu

Carolina Melguizo

Griselda Orozco

Jennifer Reidy

Lilia Serna

Paola Serrate

Maureen Springer

Anna Vangsness

Becca Wynia





## STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2008-2010

As a result of its comprehensive Strategic Planning process, La Oportunidad has revamped its mission, vision, values, and created key goals through 2010.



La Oportunidad **envisions** a community in which Latinos, whether long-term residents or new arrivals, thrive and contribute to the strength of the greater community.

**La Oportunidad's mission is to champion the development of Latino individuals and families to create a strong, peaceful community.**

### VALUES

- **Celebrating Culture.** We believe that a strong cultural identity promotes individual health and adds vibrancy to community life.
- **Promoting Peace.** We believe people can learn nonviolent strategies that allow relationships, families, and communities to thrive.
- **Pride.** We take pride in La Oportunidad as the center where culture flourishes and creative solutions to Latino needs are nurtured.



### GOALS

- La Oportunidad will increase its **visibility** as the “go-to” organization for policy-makers, funders, and others seeking services, resources, or information for and about the Latino community.
- La Oportunidad will ensure appropriate **physical space** that aligns with programming needs.
- La Oportunidad will increase its capacity by expanding its **pool of supporters**.
- La Oportunidad will increase its involvement in **public policy** on behalf of the Latino community.



  
La Oportunidad, Inc.

2700 E Lake Street, Suite 3200  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

  
La Oportunidad, Inc.

*Championing the development of Latino individuals  
and families to create a strong, peaceful community.*

2700 E Lake Street, Suite 3200  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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

612-872-6165 phone  
612-872-0964 fax

