



LA CAUSA Inc.

Where Children and Families Come First

**ANNUAL REPORT
2013**



Everyone Follows

Their Own Star



Our Mission

To provide children, youth and families with quality, comprehensive services to nurture healthy family life and enhance community stability.

Our Vision

Where stable communities and healthy families have the resources and opportunities to maximize personal development and self-sufficiency.





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The sight of the stars
makes me dream.

Vincent van Gogh





You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees
and the stars . . .

Max Ehrmann



Dear Fellow Visionaries,



Throughout history, the stars have guided explorers, pioneers, and pilgrims seeking extraordinary destinies, as well as ordinary folk on their daily journeys. The stars inspire wonder, dreams, and the promise of what may be.

At La Causa, we know that everyone has their own dreams, and these dreams are as unique as the stars. Our goal is to prepare our children for their travels, support parents in their daily pursuits, and provide a safety net against unforeseen hazards.

Our agency is constantly reaching for its own stars, and in 2013, we grabbed hold of a number of them. Most notably, our Early Education & Care Center was granted full accreditation by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education, which also conferred a Five-Star rating through Wisconsin YoungStar. Also twinkling brightly is our new Crisis Nursery & Respite Center, which opened in October and is providing enhanced comfort and relief to families in need. La Causa Charter School is bustling with a record enrollment of more than 800 students. Our Social Services division and Community Enrichment Center are reaching many new individuals in need through traditional programs and new forward-thinking approaches.

All of our dreaming, planning, programming, and hard work would not be possible without others who believe in our mission. We are eternally grateful to all of you who support us through your financial gifts, in-kind donations, and countless volunteer hours. Without you, we are merely a ship in a harbor, poised for greatness but awaiting fair winds to fill our sails.

As we embark on 2014, know that we are thankful for the vision you share with us. We are truly honored to transform your faith in us into many launch pads for the dreams of our children and families.

Ever grateful and optimistic,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Sperka".

Steve Sperka
Board Chairperson

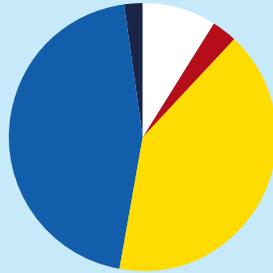


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George A. Torres".

George A. Torres
President & CEO



2013 Financials



Service Area

Service Area	Revenue	%	Expenses	%
Early Education & Care Center	\$ 1,659,317	9%	\$ 1,987,517	11%
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	\$ 577,230	3%	\$ 511,341	3%
Social Services	\$ 7,314,243	41%	\$ 7,067,313	40%
La Causa Charter School	\$ 8,021,458	45%	\$ 7,755,831	44%
Administrative Services	\$ 358,026	2%	\$ 308,305	2%
Total	\$ 17,930,274	100%	\$ 17,630,307	100%
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 299,967			

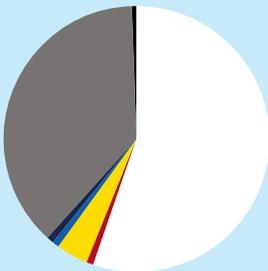


Assets

Current Assets	\$ 2,380,446
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$ 7,554,147
Other	\$ 337,212
Total Assets	\$ 10,271,805

Liabilities

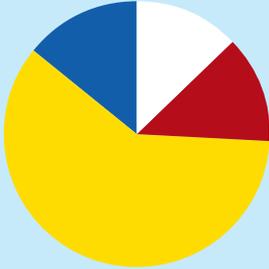
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,983,815
Long-term Liabilities	\$ 4,538,028
Net Assets (Deficit)	\$ 1,749,962
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 10,271,805



2013 Revenue by Source

Government	\$ 9,957,340	55.53%
United Way	\$142,114	0.79%
Donations	\$690,944	3.85%
Fundraising	\$134,487	0.75%
Private Pay	\$175,186	0.98%
Fees for Services	\$6,771,978	37.77%
Miscellaneous	\$58,225	0.33%

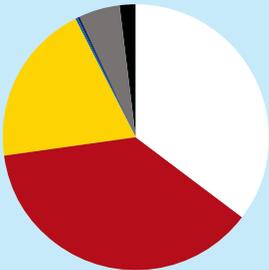
2013 Client Data



Total Individuals Served by Division

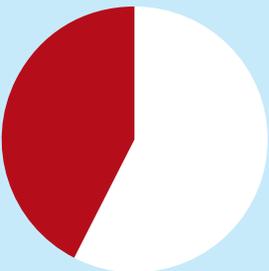
Early Education & Care Center	957	13%
La Causa Charter School	946	13%
Social Services	4,304	60%
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	988	14%
Total	7,195	

Numbers reflect individuals directly served by programs. In 2013, La Causa, Inc. was proud to impact thousands of parents, siblings, and extended family members who benefited indirectly from our services.



Total Individuals Served by Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino	2,553	35.5%
African American	2,695	37.5%
White	1,421	19.7%
American Indian/Alaskan	18	0.3%
Asian	11	0.2%
Not disclosed	370	5.0%
Other	127	1.8%
Total	7,195	



Total Individuals Served by Gender

Male	4,134	57.5%
Female	3,061	42.5%
Total	7,195	





Early Education & Care Center

Every child sparkles with unique energy, and our Early Education & Care Center welcomes each infant, toddler, and preschooler as a special person with individual needs.

Our teachers respond to each child's growth and development so our little stars acquire language and social skills, develop age-level skills, and are ready to smoothly transition into kindergarten. Children's personal growth is supported with opportunities to explore and be creative through art, music, movement, and play.



We focus on development of the whole child plus parental support in a bilingual setting. Parents are actively engaged in the educational spectrum and witness their children thriving and learning. Our goal is for each child to shine with his or her special light!



Three & Ready Preschool

With our new curriculum in place, we are pleased to offer our very own bilingual preschool program called Three & Ready. We emphasize age-level skills, English language acquisition, and kindergarten readiness. Children are captivated by the activities and are moving ahead like shooting stars!



Creative Curriculum

Thanks to a generous grant from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation, all of our children are experiencing a new, nationally-acclaimed curriculum. *The Creative Curriculum* was implemented in all classrooms in 2013, along with the *Teaching Strategies Gold* assessment package. All children are now on a continuum of learning and development from age 4 weeks to 5 years, along with frequent checks of their progress. This research-proven package supports every child in becoming a creative, confident thinker.

How We Shine: Five-Star Rated!

After a two-year self-assessment process and final site visit evaluation, we've done it! Our Early Education & Care Center was awarded accreditation from the **National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education**. This also conferred a **Five-Star** rating through **Wisconsin YoungStar**. Our center is now ranked in the top 8 percent of child care centers in Wisconsin. We are excited to provide top-quality care and education to our neighborhood families!



2013 Happenings

Generous corporate, foundation, and individual donors impacted our many programs in 2013. Our children benefitted from health screenings and special events that otherwise might have been beyond their reach.

Our **Broadway Bound** summer program brought together music, dance, visual arts, theater, movies, summer fun, and a special field trip to The Dancing Horses in Delavan, Wisconsin.



Our **Hispanic Early Learning Program** provided developmental screenings and assessments for all our children. Referrals and parent coaching assisted children who exhibited delays, ensuring that they could receive needed attention and stay on track to be ready for kindergarten. Children also received free dental check-ups through the Smiles program.

Parent activities included our **Open House** ice cream social and the Thanksgiving **Pies for Parents** event, where children proudly made pumpkin pies for their parents.



La Causa Charter School

Education is the movement from darkness to light.

—Allan Bloom

The surest path to success for children in the 21st Century is a quality education. La Causa Charter School provides a solid, bilingual core curriculum enhanced by our strong Fine Arts and Vocational Education program. We strive to develop well-rounded students who are ready for the next challenges of high school, college, and career.

With two-thirds of our kindergarteners being English-language learners, three goals drive our curricula: English-language proficiency for all students, third-grade reading proficiency, and high school readiness for eighth graders. Our graduates are truly prepared to face challenges and reach for their own stars.

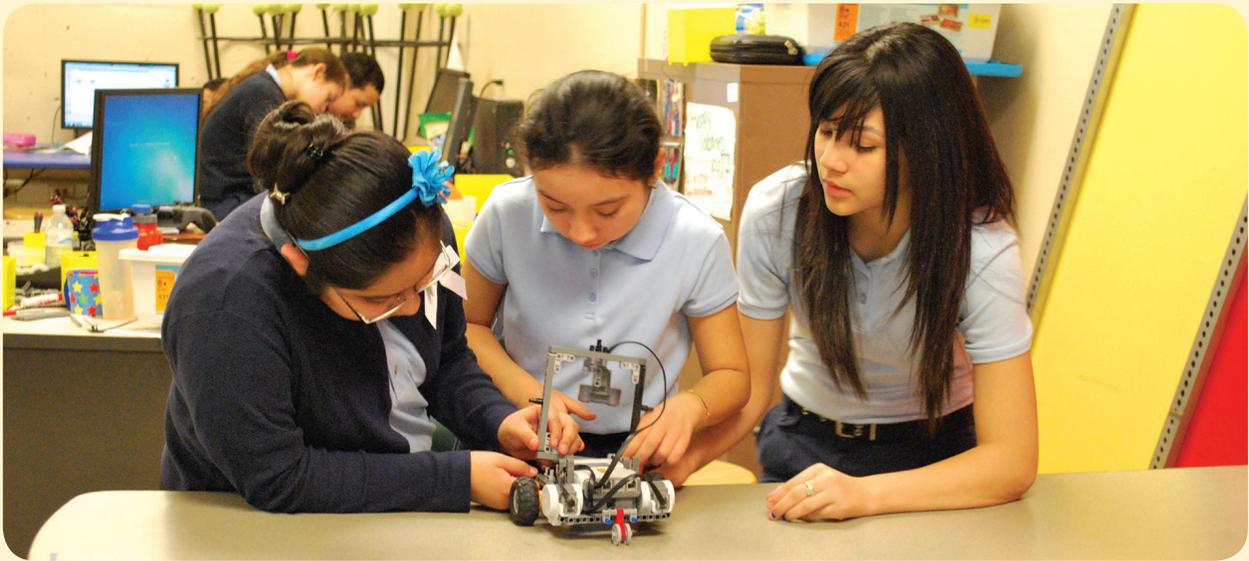


Fine Arts and Vocational Education (FAVE)

La Causa Charter School is committed to developing students into polished, sparkling individuals through emphasis on our FAVE areas.

The Fine Arts are cultivated through visual arts, dance, vocal music, and instrumental music. Choir, orchestra, and several guitar groups provide options for a wide variety of musical interests and student enrichment.

Vocational Education emphasizes valuable STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math classes. Our science labs, robotics lab, and video production lab immerse students in state-of-the-art activities, including Project Lead the Way. These classes prepare students for the rigors of high school and give them valuable exposure to high-demand careers.



After-School Enrichment Program

Research shows that after-school hours are prime time for teens and pre-teens to find trouble such as drugs and gangs. Our After-School Enrichment Program is designed to transform potential risky behaviors into positive academic and life skills. About 90 children in our program receive a hot dinner, homework time, tutoring, and math enrichment as well as organized soccer, track, volleyball, music, dance, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, a running program, science club, First Stage Theater workshops, and more. Students in our program are showing significant improvement in homework compliance, attentiveness, academic performance, motivation, class participation, and other areas.



Impact of Music

In seventh grade, Paloma's grades were slipping and her parents were growing concerned about her choice of friends. Paloma enrolled in guitar classes that year and joined the orchestra. In less than three months, she became much more positive about school and her grades improved. Paloma's new outlook even rubbed off on her younger sisters, who can't wait to take music classes when they are old enough. Their parents are thrilled that the girls are motivated and excited about school!



Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

Like a star blazing in the night, La Causa's Crisis Nursery & Respite Center is a source of hope and comfort to desperate families. Open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, this licensed shelter accepts children age birth to 12 years for up to three days during any kind of emergency—at no cost to parents. The CNRC encourages respite care for families under stress—the only facility in southeastern Wisconsin to do so—so parents can breathe, stabilize the family, and take their children home to a better living situation.

Children who stay at the CNRC have plenty to eat, are tucked into a clean bed at night, and are safe from dangers such as homelessness, domestic violence, or being left home alone.



In 2013,
the Crisis Nursery
hosted 603 children
for a total of
1,436 stays and
2,810 overnights.

Child Comforts

With space for 12 children, the Crisis Nursery & Respite Center is a busy place! Yet every child who visits is treated like a special guest. The CNRC is ready with everything a child might need: meals, snacks, bath supplies, spare clothing, sheets, towels, pajamas, toothbrushes, and toys—all provided by compassionate, trained crisis care workers. We are a safe haven for children during all kinds of emergencies.





Our New Facility is Open!

Our staff and children are enjoying the beautiful new Crisis Nursery, which opened in October. Designed for the needs of 12 children plus staff, the new building has four bedrooms, large plays spaces, a computer room for homework and parent use, a large, state-of-the-art kitchen, office and counseling space, and a dining room that seats 16 people. Completely handicapped accessible including an elevator, the new spaces are warm, comfortable, and homelike.



Thanks to Our Shining Star!

Our new facility was made possible by many generous donors, but we are especially grateful to a single anonymous donor who personally funded a large portion of the new center. On behalf of our children, thank you!!!



“I took my boys to the Crisis Nursery when I needed a medical appointment. When I picked up the boys, they didn’t want to leave! The staff called a week later to check up on me and they encouraged me to come back—they could see I was really stressed. They’ve been a lifeline for me many times.” —Marian, Crisis Nursery Mother



La Causa Social Services

Some stars are bright and blazing while others might wobble or waver. When difficulties with child safety, behavior, mental health, or substance use impact families, La Causa Social Services is prepared to help guide individuals back on course. Our Social Services division has more than 100 employees who serve as care coordinators, social workers, and more to locate services, find placements, counsel, train foster parents, assist with adoptions, restore family relationships, and help families stabilize and let their light shine.

Program Areas

Wraparound Milwaukee

REACH Milwaukee

Crisis Stabilization

Recovery Support Coordination

Treatment Foster Care

Delinquency and Court Services

WATTS Reviews

Healthy Girls—Making Proud Choices

Treatment Services

Placement Preservation Coordinator—Professional Foster Parents

Wrap Around—Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

Targeted Case Management



Professional Foster Parents and Treatment Foster Care

Not every child grows up in a stable environment with a loving family. For some children, foster care can be a fresh start. Parents in our foster program learn many techniques to gain children's trust, nurture them after adverse experiences, and help them thrive.

In 2013, Treatment Foster Care guided 16 children into adoptions, reunifications, family placements, or independent living, and our professional foster parents served as resources to 12 children. A major goal in 2014 is recruitment of more foster families so many more children can be cared for in a loving atmosphere.





Community Linkage and Stabilization Program (CLASP)

The CLASP program took root with La Causa in 2012 and emphasizes independent living. This initiative hires individuals who have overcome their own mental health needs to serve as Certified Peer Specialists. After training and certification, Certified Peer Specialists work with others who are beginning mental health recovery. These specialists bring a unique perspective to the relationship, having experienced many of the same challenges as their clients. Certified Peer Specialists serve as a compassionate and understanding support system on a sometimes difficult journey.

Success Story

Marcus was 15 years old when he was removed from his family home due to physical abuse. He became caught up in a gang, drugs, and vandalism. While trying to reconcile and reunite with his mother, he was assigned a crisis stabilization worker. Marcus's worker became like a big brother, and helped Marcus learn that he could let go of his past and focus on his future. He reunited with his mother, graduated from high school, and enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Marcus has much to look forward to and credits his crisis stabilization worker for being a positive role model.

From Our Participants

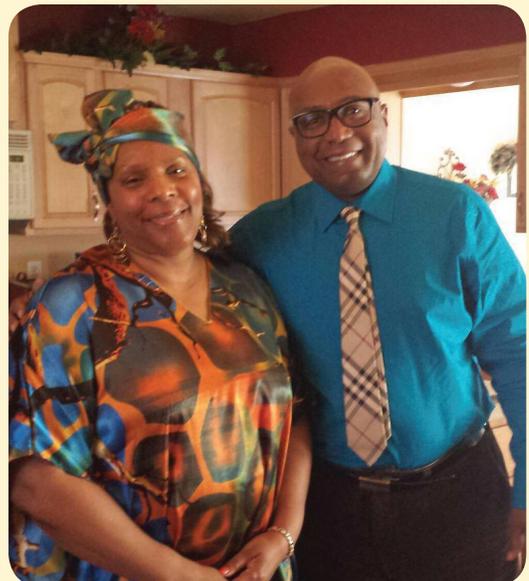
“My case manager is wonderful. I don't know what I would do without her in my life.”

“My case manager is conscious of my ability to make decisions on my own and be independent. That is very important to my success.”

“My son's crisis stabilization worker can get through to him when my son has shut down and will not communicate.”

“He seems to motivate my son to do things when others can't. Hoping he will teach me the magic words to say!”

“Keep doing what you are doing, it works!”



2013 Financial Partners

Foundations

Brewers Charities
Bucyrus Foundation, Inc.
Forest County Potawatomi
Community Foundation
Four-Four Foundation, Inc.
Greater Milwaukee Association of
Realtors Youth Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.
Green Bay Packers Foundation
The Harley Davidson Foundation

The Richard and Ethel Herzfeld
Foundation, Inc.
ITW Foundation 3-for-1 Matching
Gift Program
Milwaukee Empty Bowls
The Milwaukee Urban League
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation
The Faye McBeath Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Palmer Family Foundation, Inc.

PPG Industries Foundation
Target Foundation
The UPS Foundation
Waukesha County Community Foundation
We Energies Foundation
Wildcat Foundation
Wochinske Family Foundation
Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.

Businesses

American Express
Anonymous
Associated Bank
AT&T
Aurora Health Care, Inc.
Baker Tilly
BMO Harris Bank
Boucher Automotive Group
Bubrick's Complete Office
Cafe Corazon
Dierks Waukesha Food Service
Diversified Insurance Solutions
Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan LLP
Greendale Woman's Club
Guaranty Bank
Hales Corners Woman's Club
Hatco Corporation
Heritage Credit Union
The Hoff Group, Inc.
Hunger Task Force, Inc.
Johnson Controls
Kapco, Inc. Metal Stamping
Kiwanis Club of Metropolitan Milwaukee
La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.
La Causa Employees
Leader Paper Products, Inc.
Lumen Christi Church
Members Give powered by JustGive
Midwest Fiber Networks
MillerCoors LLC
MSI General Corporation
Renner Architects LLC
Rishi Tea
RollGiving
Santiago Insurance Agency
Schlossmann's Honda City
Straight-Up, Inc.
Tenth and Blake Beer Company
Truist, Inc.
United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
United Way in Waukesha County
United Way of Greater Milwaukee
UPS, Inc.
UW-Milwaukee

We Energies
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare

Individuals

Thomas Adler
Nedda & Onie Avila
Maria Ayala-Smith
Isabel Bader
Kenneth Barczak
Cynthia Bauer
Mark Bauer
Randall Baumgart
Sharon Baxter
Ana & Glenn Berrios-Schroeder
David Blair
Sheila Beck
Frank Boucher
Gordon Boucher
Bernice Boucher
Anne Brown
Denise Bruneau
Steve Dalebroux
Roberto M. & Cynthia Delgadillo
Andy & Diane DeLeon
Karl Dickson
Melissa Dixon-Harmon
Susan & Thomas Doyle
Brian Drier
Mary Beth Duffey
Jess Dynek
Donja Dziak
Jacqueline Eckstrom
Patricia Ellis
Michael Ferguson
Maria Anna Fischbach
Audrey Fischer
Catherine Flaherty
Rita & Robert Friehe
Cindy & Roger Gilles
Socorro Gonzales & Felipe Rodriguez
Randall Green
Mavis Green
Bonnie & Bruce Hady
Douglas Hagerman
Linda Hartl
Kathleen Hartl

Maureen Hilbert
Mark Hobbs
Sylvia Ibarra
Nancy & Frank Jelen
Linda Johnson-Dyneke
A. Kalery
James Kalland
Raejean & Jim Kanter
Kurt Kellogg
Susan & Richard Kelnhofer
Diane Kosarzycki
Paul Kosidowski
Robert & Julie Kotecki
Michelle Kotnarowski
Joan Kruse
Shirley Krzyzanowski
Steven Krzyzanowski
Douglas Lackey
Martha Lamelas
Wayne Larrivee
Gregory Larson
Michael Lee
Keith Lester
Terence Lynch
Carol Mayer
Mary McCabe
Carla McGinn
Kurt Miller
Doug & Ginny Mills
Cassandra Morales-Salcedo
Jeffrey Natrop
Gregory Oberland
Lauretta Olszyk
Joan Palmer
Janet Peshek
Ellen Quale
Julie Raaum
Jertha Ramos-Colon & Felix Colon
Bob Renick
Scott Roeker
Cheryl Rosinski
Mary Ellen Ruzga
Ehab Saad
Scott Sanders
Audrey Schanning
Lois Schmitz

Karl Schoendorf
Joseph Schoendorf
Thomas Schoendorf
Bonnie Schultz
William Shea
Susan Shimoyama-See
Ron Sniacach
Steve & Lisa Sperka
Alan Stasiewski
John Stein

Audrey Strnad
Thomas Swiontek
Karin Tamblingson
Ellen Thomson
George & Denise Torres
Chyra Trost
Lyman & Sue Tschanz
Michele Tschopp
Steven & Kara Vander Heyden
Sandra Weeks

Phillip Weinfurt
Brian Wickert
Marilyn Wilke
Majungary Williams
Tammy Wilson
Krista Wohlwend
Zapata Family
Joan Zbichorski
Dean Zemel

2013 In-kind Donors

In Kind - Businesses

Acacia Theatre Company
Aeropostale
AFL-CIO
All Star Screen Printers
Allen Edmonds Corporation
Andrus, Sceales, Stark & Sawall LLP
Anonymous
AUWMG Woman's Health Center
Beauty
BMO Harris Bank
Boy Scouts of America
Braise Restaurant
Bravo! Cucina Italiana
Brewers Charities
Broadlands Golf Club
The Business Journal
Care-a-Lotta
Danceworks, Inc.
Discovery World Museum
First Stage Children's Theater
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast
Girls on Track
Goodwill Industries
Great Lakes Distillery
Greendale Women's Club
Home Care Medical, Inc.
Hot Yoga Milwaukee
INdustri Cafe
Kalmbach Publishing Co.
Kevin Hayden Band
King of Glory Lutheran Church
Koss Corporation
La Causa Employees
Marquette University Service Learning Dept.
MillerCoors LLC
Milwaukee Adventure Boot Camp
Milwaukee Ballet Company
Milwaukee Bucks
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
New Threads of Hope
Northwestern Mutual
The Nurturing Nook
Pacon Corporation
The Pfister Hotel
Porcupine Foundation
Potawatomi Bingo Casino

Ravinia Festival
Renner Architects LLC
Rockwell Automation, Inc.
Sign-A-Rama
SPiN Milwaukee
St. Matthias Parish
St. Pius X Congregation
Summer Snow Art
Target
Tessera Design
Three Holy Women Parish
Time Warner Cable
Transfer Pizza
Tripoli Shrine Circus
UMB Fund Services, Inc.
United Health Care Services, Inc.
United Way of Greater Milwaukee
We Energies
West Allis Allegro Dance Team
Wines for Humanity
Zoological Society of Milwaukee

In Kind - Individuals

Jacob Adams
Mark Anderson
Joshua Arens
Gary Ballesteros
Thomas Barrett
Natalya Blanck
Frank Boucher
Anne Brown
James Cappleman
Inge Dick
Brian Drier
Trish Dulka
Elizabeth Escobar
Mary Lou Galvan
Martin Gierut
Diane Gnasl
Ray Grassl
Denise Green
Catherine Hampton
Jane Harding
Bridget Haubold
Emily Hawkins
Carrie Hayden
John Hayden
Trudie Hughes-Sontoski
Terry Jacobs

Marisa Klopp
Wayne Kraszewski
Tina Kreitlow
Sharon Krukowski
Nick Lawrence
Nancy Lewander
Mark Lien
The Morrisons
Annalisa Nash
Angela Nemeth
Eileen O'Heron
Brandon Orlando
Vincent Orlando
Louie Orlando
Jose Perez
Kara Pitt-D'Andrae
George Porter
Mary Rehwaldt
Jelaine Robbins
Cheryl Rosinski
Audrey Schanning
Mike Schoendorf
Steve & Lisa Sperka
Tracy Staedler
Christine Stenglein
James Tamblingson
George & Denise Torres
Susan Touchett
Lyman & Sue Tschanz
Todd Wilde
Chad Winters
Amanda Wojnar
Tanritai Wyllie
Zapata Family





You Can Help Our Families Shine!

Your donations support quality education, social programs, and child safety. When children and families have opportunities within reach, they twinkle more brightly. Every contribution is meaningful and important and helps turn our families' dreams into reality.

Here's how you can help our families succeed.

Provide **financial gifts** in the form of cash, check, money order, or credit card.

Participate in **planned giving** through a bequest, memorial, or tribute.

Make **pledges** of a one-time gift or a recurring gift lasting months or years.

Solicit **matching gifts**—make your contribution work harder with the help of your employer.

Donate to our **long list of needs** including personal care items, diapers, laundry soap, books, toys, and gently used clothing.

Attend or sponsor our **Annual Dinner** event—an evening of food, fun, auction items, and more!

Become a **volunteer!** The gift of your time is invaluable and supports us in a multitude of ways.

Our Development Team is eager to assist you in making a contribution. For more information, contact us at 414-902-1512 or visit www.lacausa.org



Board of Directors

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UPS, Inc.

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Community Representative

Gregory Larson, Treasurer
Bank Mutual

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Rockwell Automation

Roberto M. Delgadillo
Honorary Member





LA CAUSA Inc.

Where Children and Families Come First

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Locations

Administration

P. O. Box 04188
136 W. Greenfield Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-647-8750

La Causa Charter School

1643 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-902-1660

Early Education & Care Center

809 W. Greenfield Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-647-5980

Community Enrichment Center

804 W. Greenfield Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-647-5971

Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

522 W. Walker St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-647-5990

Social Services Division

1212 S. 70th St. Suite 115A
West Allis, WI 53214
414-902-1500

www.lacausa.org



No matter where you're from,
your dreams are valid.

Lupita Nyong'o



La Causa, Inc. is an AA/EEOC/LEP Employer and Service Provider and participates in E-Verify.