

ANNUAL REPORT 2014







Shine Brightly





Dear Valued Friends,

Have you ever heard someone say, "He's just a kid?" It's hard to understand how anyone can dismiss a child as unimportant, insignificant, or without value. As we all know, children grow up fast-they become teenagers and college students and adults right before our eyes.

All children start out as blank slates—like a shard of stone or a pebble on a beach. Life's journey smoothes them and polishes them. But life can also deliver hard knocks that cause chips or even serious cracks. The journey of childhood can sometimes explain why some adults shine like diamonds, while others might remain rough or scarred.

At La Causa, every child is a gem seeking to be polished. We work daily to provide safe care, preschool, and elementary and middle school so our children can achieve and excel. And when rough times create nicks or dents, our multitude of social service programs are available to help heal the scars and hold damage in check.

We are also proud to offer programs for adults whose fractures and chips prevent them from living life to the fullest. By addressing instability, we daily see our participants living healthier, happier, more productive lives.

As one of La Causa's many supporters, please share in our pride at the success of our efforts. Your support and contributions make our work possible, helping us to polish the gemstones of thousands of individuals each year. With your help, our world is brighter and holds more promise.

With warm appreciation,

Steve Sperka **Board Chairperson**

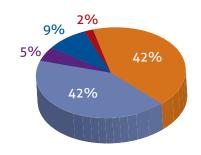
George A. Torres President & CEO



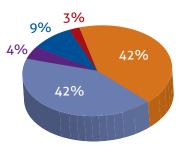
Our Mission To provide children, youth and families with quality, comprehensive services to nurture healthy family life and enhance community stability.

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

2014 Financials



Revenue



S	eı	rvi	C	e i	Ar	ea

Early Education & Care Center	\$ 1,741,726
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	\$ 510,743
Social Services	\$ 8,457,799
La Causa Charter School	\$ 8,327,304
Administrative Services	\$ 947,877
Total	\$ 19,985,449
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 513 667



Assets

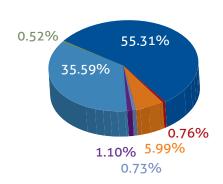
Total Assets	\$ 9,565,456
Other	\$ 302,105
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$ 7,320,377
Current Assets	\$ 1,942,974

Liabilities

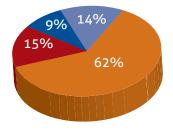
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 9,565,456
Net Assets (Deficit)	\$ 2,263,629
Long-term Liabilities	\$ 3,515,966
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,785,861

2014 Revenue by Source

Government	\$ 11,053,752
United Way	\$ 150,813
Donations	\$ 1,198,102
Fundraising	\$ 146,405
Private Pay	\$ 220,680
Fees for Services	\$ 7,111,801
Miscellaneous	\$ 103,896
Total	\$ 19,985,449



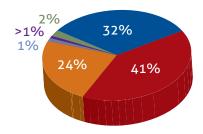
2014 Client Data



Total Individuals Served by Division

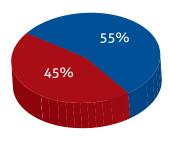
Early Education & Care Center	606
La Causa Charter School	935
Social Services	4,057
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	948
Total	6,456

Numbers reflect individuals directly served by programs.In 2014, 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	2,098
African American	2,669
White	1,564
American Indian/Alaskan	47
Asian	14
Other	154
Total	6,456



Total Individuals Served by Gender

Male	3,591
Female	2,955
Total	6,546



Early Education & Care Center

La Causa Early Education & Care Center exists because all children have a fundamental need to learn. We provide age-appropriate, nurturing care and education for children age 4 weeks to 12 years old in a bilingual setting.

- Infant and Toddler Developmental Care
- Early Preschool
- Three & Ready Preschool

- Before- and After-School Care
- Summer Camp Program
- Off-School Program



We are proud to be accredited by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education. This confers a Five-Star rating through Wisconsin YoungStar, ranking our center in the top 8 percent of child care centers in Wisconsin. Our children receive top-quality care and education right in their own neighborhood!



2014 Highlights

Our summer program, *Take Flight*, offered summerlong fun and learning. Children explored the world of airplanes, helicopters, balloons, and animals; built bird houses and planes; experimented with simple rockets; and visited the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh for an exciting hands-on experience.

Our Hispanic Early Learning Program (HELP) screened children for developmental progress. 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.

Parent activities such as Open House, a Mother's Day program, summer picnic, and more brought parents to the center for fun and refreshments. Children performed songs, displayed artwork, and demonstrated science skills.

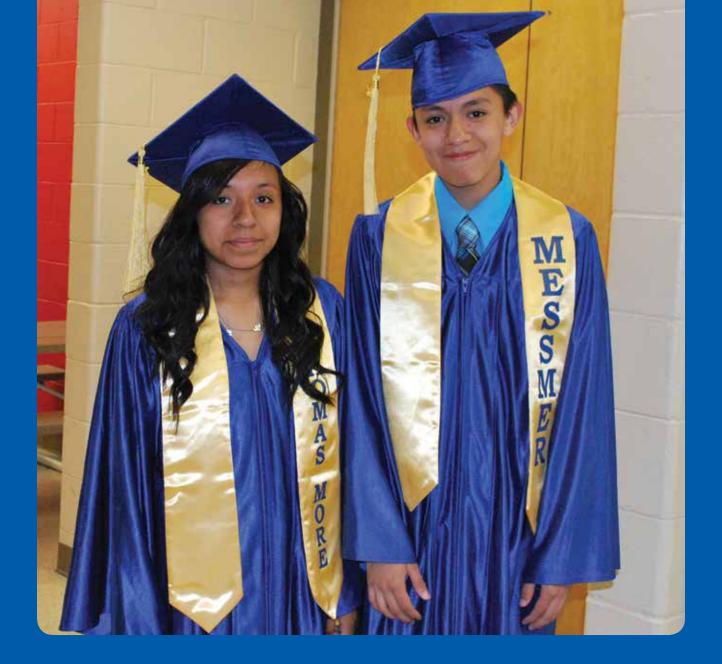


Three & Ready Preschool

Our very own bilingual preschool program, called Three & Ready, emphasizes age-level skills and English language acquisition. Children learn the skills needed for kindergarten and are excited to start school!

Creative Curriculum

The best tools produce the best results! We are proud of our framework-the nationally-acclaimed Creative Curriculum. This system, together with the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment package, places all children on a continuum of learning and development from age 4 weeks to 5 years along with frequent checks of their progress. This researchproven package supports every child in becoming a creative, confident thinker.



La Causa Charter School

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 to shine in every endeavor.



Fine Arts and Vocational Education (FAVE)

The arts and sciences build knowledge and discipline that can shape a child forever. La Causa Charter School is committed to developing students into polished, sparkling individuals through its 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 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.



21st Century Community Learning Center

The after-school hours are a valuable opportunity for youth development and to help students who struggle academically. Our after-school program is a qualified 21st Century Community Learning Center and benefits from federally designated funding. Our program meets standards for math and literacy time, sports and extracurriculars, mentoring, and valuable life skills. This year, students in our after-school program showed a significant increase in standardized testing and classroom behavior.



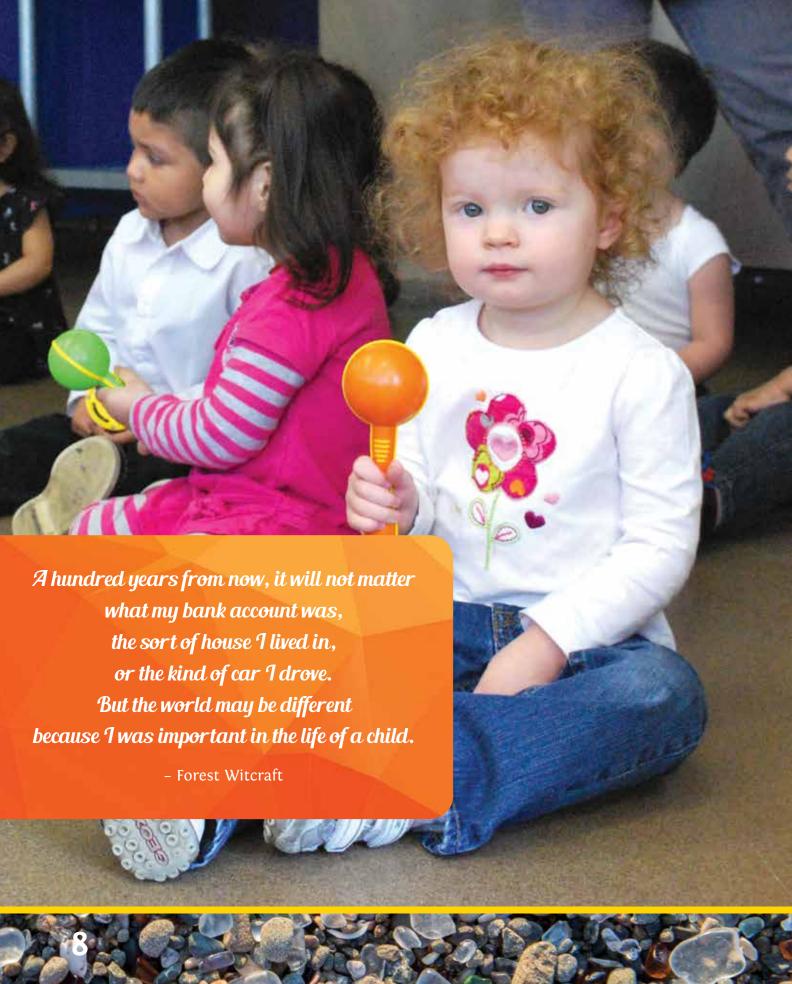
Project Lead the Way LAUNCH

Thanks to a generous grant from the Louis Calder Foundation, we added the Project Lead the Way LAUNCH program to our coursework in the 2014-15 school year. This provides a national STEM curriculum for children in K5 through 5th grade, expanding our traditional Project Lead the Way offerings for grades 6 through 8.



Impact of Real-World Skills

Roberto was a bright student but had trouble paying attention in class and applying himself to his work. His robotics class changed his outlook on schoolwork. After seeing math and engineering in action in the form of robots, he could make the connection between theory and application. Roberto became better focused and worked harder on his lessons after realizing the importance of the foundation he was building.





Locations



Early Education & Care Center



La Causa Ch<mark>ar</mark>ter School



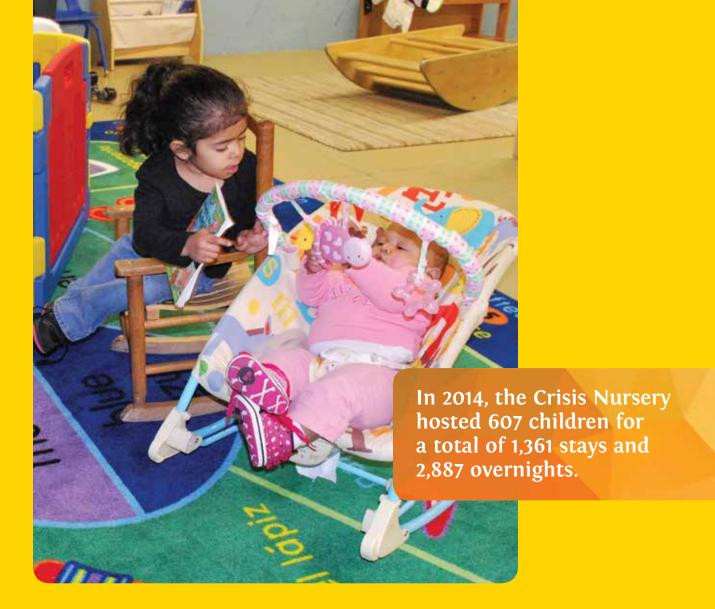
Social Services



Community Enrichment Center



Crisis Nursery & Respite Center



Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

Every child deserves a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals, and comfortable surroundings. But when families suffer from hardship, parents need time to seek help and find stability. La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center (CNRC) is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year to shelter and care for children in any kind of crisis. We provide safety and support for children while parents address adult concerns.

As a licensed shelter, we accept children age birth to 12 years for up to three days during any kind of emergency—at no cost to parents. The CNRC also 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. Reducing stress in parents is shown to reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect.



Families Feel at Home in Our New Facility

Our beautiful new Crisis Nursery opened in October, 2013. Custom designed for 12 children plus staff, and handicap accessible, the new center truly provides a feeling of safety and comfort for our children. Staff report that our young guests settle in quickly and easily, and parents are reassured when they place their children in our care. The smiles and hugs have been endless!

Child Comforts

Many families arrive during emergencies and aren't able to bring belongings. The Crisis Nursery 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. Every child is a special guest and is treated with compassion.







"I was so nervous when
I dropped off my children,
but our apartment wasn't
safe and I had to move. The
staff made us feel welcome
and cooked meals for
my little girls. I found an
apartment and got us moved
while my girls were safe and
cozy for three nights!"

La Causa Social Services

Life's journey is not always smooth, and sometimes delivers challenges in the form of substance use, behavior issues, child safety difficulty, or mental health needs. La Causa's Social Services division is ready to smooth out life's rough spots and aid with healing. Our care coordinators, social workers, and specialists are able to locate services, find placements, counsel, train foster parents, assist with adoptions, restore family bonds, and help individuals achieve their goals and find personal success.



We served 4,057 individuals plus many more family members in 2014. Our staff is proud to have helped so many families find stability!



Service Areas

Wraparound Milwaukee
REACH Milwaukee
Transitional Coordination
Wraparound Screeners
Crisis Stabilization
Specialized Crisis Stabilization

Healthy Girls (Making Proud Choices)

My Life My Choices

Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

WATTS Reviews

Question, Persuade, Report (QPR) Training

Treatment Foster Care

Children's Court Foster Care

Professional Foster Parent Coordinator

Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
Advocacy

Community Linkage and Stabilization Program (CLASP)

Peer Specialist Training

Targeted Case Management (TCM)/ TCM AODA

Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)

Treatment Services

Crisis Mobile Team—Third Shift

Access Clinic—South

Recovery Center/Peer-Run Drop-In Center

Recovery Support Coordination

2014 Highlights

- Treatment Foster Care program facilitated six adoptions, three relative placements, five reunifications, and eight moves to independent living, representing a permanency rate of 88 percent.
- Community Linkages and Stabilization Program (CLASP) was featured in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel—this program matches Peer Specialists who have conquered their own mental health needs with others who need guidance.
- Peer Specialist Training was completed by 36 participants.
- Record numbers of Wraparound and REACH families were served through our programs, including all participating Spanish-speaking families in Milwaukee County.

New Initiatives

- Specialized Crisis Stabilization: Assistance for youth who are at-risk or sexually exploited
- Youth Living Out Loud: Through a federally funded grant, mentoring of youth who are at-risk or sexually exploited
- AODA Targeted Case Management: Case management for individuals with substance use needs
- Recovery Center: Peer-run drop-in center offers a recovery-oriented environment
- Comprehensive Community Services: Care Coordination services for adults with significant mental health or co-occurring needs
- Access Clinic-South: Mental health and substance use assessment for uninsured adults
- My Life, My Choice: Group curriculum to prevent youth sexual exploitation
- Transitional Coordination: Care Coordination services for young adults with mental health needs



Success Story

Maude, in her fifties, had been homeless for six years and abusing alcohol for more than three decades. After sixteen days in a detoxification program, she transferred to residential treatment for two months, then a day treatment program. Nearly a year later, Maude graduated from treatment and had been sober for nine months. She entered a work adjustment program and eventually acquired permanent employment. Maude has a new outlook and is able to pay her rent and support herself. She has become an accomplished spokesperson for the value of her treatment and willingly shares the story of her journey.

2014 Financial Partners

Foundations

Byers Foundation Ltd.

Catholic Community Foundation Dollar General Literacy Foundation

Fleck Foundation

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 Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, Inc.

Herzing University Foundation Ltd.

Louis Calder Foundation Miracle on Canal Street

Northwestern Mutual Foundation Palmer Family Foundation, Inc. Runzheimer Foundation, Inc. Racine Dominican Mission Fund The ROS Foundation

Service Club of Milwaukee

Waukesha County Community Foundation

We Energies Foundation Weiss Family Foundation Wigchers Family Fund Wildcat Foundation

Wochinske Family Foundation

Businesses

Associated Financial Group AT&T Aurora Health Care, Inc.

Balanced. Inc. **BMO** Harris Bank

Bostik, Inc.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Diversified Insurance Solutions

Donors Forum of

Wisconsin, Inc.

Dryit Carpet Dry Cleaning, Inc. Hales Corners Woman's Club

Hatco Corporation

In Tandem Theatre Company

Johnson Controls

Jubliee Christian Family Church

Kohl's Community Relations Field Trip Program

La Casa de Esperanza, Inc. Landmark Credit Union

Latino Peace Officers

Association

Leader Paper Products, Inc.

The Milwaukee Urban League MSI General Corporation

Northwestern Mutual

Project Lead the Way, Inc.

Rockwell Automation, Inc.

Saxon Homestead Farm, LLC Seek Careers / Staffing

St. Mary Congregation Catholic

Faith Community St. Mary's School

St. Matthias Parish and School

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Trade Press Publishing Corp. United Healthcare Services, Inc. United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha

County

United Way of Metropolitan

Chicago

UPS. Inc.

Vulcan Global Manufacturing Solutions

Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church

We Energies

Individuals

Anonymous (11) James A. Arend

Nedda & Onie Avila Kirsty Beatfeld

Jacquelyne Beaumont

Karen Binder Anne Brown

Denise Bruneau

Stephanie Bull Kathryn Cieszki

Don Cohen

Calvin De Leon

Doug and Ginny Mills

Patricia Ellis David Erlitz

Mary Pat Farrell Audrey Fischer

Roy & Teena Cook Ryan Corsaro Elizabeth and Will Craig Micki D'Acquisto Corey Daleness Andy & Diane De Leon Karl M. Dickson

Eric Dingeldein

Andy & Ian Fleckenstein Bonita Gantzer

John A. Goelz Rebecca Goldman

Socorro Gonzales & Felipe

Rodriguez Tami Griffin Sarita Gwinn Bonnie T. Hady

Douglas Hagerman Jim Halverson

Kathy Hanson Kathleen Hartl Maureen Hilbert

Melissa Howard Trudie Hughes & Larry Sontoski

Nancy & Frank Jelen Eduardo & Catherine Jimenez

Kurt & Kathleen Kellogg

Kari Klasen Lisi Mary Jane Klement Michelle Klos-Gonzalez

Robert & Julie Kotecki Fred and Marianne Kramer

Linda Kramer **Douglas Lackey** Martha A. Lamelas Gregory A. Larson Nancy Lehrer

Al Letourneau Elizabeth Longo Delphine M. Lukomski

Elizabeth Lynch Iulio Maldonado

Wilda Maldonado Tamara Martinsek Phyllis May

Ann McKillip Stacy Melichar Jean Mercier

Kristina R. Meridith Rodney Michael

David and Elaine Michaud In Loving Memory of

Joe G. Morales Cynthia M. Muhar

Jeffrey Natrop Lauretta Olszyk

Raul Ornelas Suzanne Orth

Dan Pipia

Rick and Shiela Ouinnies Lester Radtke

Iertha Ramos-Colon & Felix Colon

Cheryl A. Rosinski Mary Ellen Ruzga Sangeeta Sarna

Suzy Schmidt Karl T. Schoendorf Kathleen M. Seitz

Susan Shimoyama-See

Larry Sorensen Steve & Lisa Sperka Kim Stormo

Paula Storniolo Audrey Strnad Jason Termaat

Alisha Terry

George & Denise Torres Lyman & Susan Tschanz

Marty Tyksinski Elizabeth Vokac Marilyn Wilke Mary Wilson

Randall Wondergem Laura Wynn

Zapata Family Joan Zbichorski

2014 In-kind Donors

Foundations

Assurant Health Foundation Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation The Harley-Davidson Foundation

Businesses

A. J. Ugent Furs & Fashions, Inc. Acacia Theatre Company Accion Hispano AFL-CIO Allen Edmonds Corporation Antigua Latin Restaurant AT&T Telecom Pioneers Baker's Square Best Buy Broadlands Golf Club **Buffalo Wild Wings** Carroll Studios of Photography Casita de Fiestas Cermak Market Cheesecake Factory Cielito Lindo Restaurant Colectivo Coffee Roasters Cubanitas Restaurant Culver's of West Milwaukee Data Dimensions Discovery World Museum Dunkin' Donuts El Rey Mexican Products, Inc. Fandango Floraleers Garden Club **GE Medical Systems** Girl Scout Troop #6314 Goodwill Industries Grand Geneva Resort & Spa Great Lakes Distillery Green Bay Packers Half Price Books Harley-Davidson Museum Hemingway's Home Depot-Holt Avenue Horny Goat Brewing Co. Il Mito Restaurant The Iron Horse Hotel Joseph Campione, Inc. Kalmbach Publishing Co. Klement Sausage Co., Inc. **Koss Corporation** La Champagne Bakery MainStay Hotel Menards MG Multiservicios

Milwaukee Ballet Company Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club Milwaukee Chamber Theatre Milwaukee County Zoo Milwaukee Public Market Milwaukee Public Museum Milwaukee Repertory Theater Mother of Good **Counsel Church** New Threads of Hope O'Donoghue's Irish Pub Office Furniture Options, Inc. Old Country Buffet Oscar's Pub and Grill Palermo's Pizza The Pfister Hotel Pick'n Save (4) Ray's Liquor Red Lobster Rockwell Automation, Inc. Roob Photographic Design The Rumpus Room Shaker's Cigar Bar Sports Page Bar and Grill Sprecher Brewing Company, St. Mary Congregation Catholic Faith Community St. Matthias Parish St. Pius X Congregation Starbucks Coffee (4) Stone Creek Coffee Summerfest Sunset Playhouse Target Brands, Inc. (2) Tessera Design TGI Friday's Three Holy Women Parish Transfer Pizza Wauwatosa Montessori School WAWM Learning Center Wayward Kitchen and Bar We Energies Wendy's Windfall Theatre Wines for Humanity

Individuals

Anonymous Amanda Adrian Charles Anderson Judy Berther Neil Besougloff Frank Boucher Jan Catlett Kelly Catlett Jennifer Clement Adrian Czerwinski Patricia Damian Mike Dison Brian Drier Trish Dulka Petra Eccarius Brylow Jacqueline Eckstrom Susan Engstrom Nereida Favela Johanna Ferreira Jody Fitzmaurice Bridget M. Flad Catherine Fouliard Gigi Gamboa Teresa Geiger Ashley Giagilino Socorro Gonzales & Felipe Rodriguez Colleen Gotowitz Ray Grassl Bill Hagel Heidi V. Havens Irma Linda Hernandez Maureen Hilbert Jodi Holz Charlene Horner Trudie Hughes-Sontoski Sandy Ingram Mike Jacobs Nancy & Frank Jelen John Jirik Andrea Johnson **Anthony Jones** Gregory A. Larson Nick Lawrence Peggy Leonhardt

Al Letourneau Nadia Lopez Craig Lucas Victor Lugo lov Luv Lisa Marchese Eliizabeth McDonnell Aaron Miller Mary Ann Molter Judi Mueller Luis Arturo Munoz Mary Ann Nekich Keith Nosbusch Brandon Orlando Louie Orlando Vincent Orlando Liliana Perez Kara Pitt-D'Andrae Diurdia Ristic Jelaine Robbins Scott Roeker Cheryl A. Rosinski Paul Sackmann **Audrey Schanning** Geraldine Scherer Tracy Schuster Sally Severson Dan Smith Steve & Lisa Sperka Alex Tick George & Denise Torres Ann & Lee Van Dixhorn Toya Washington Jason Wautier Jill Wesloski Amanda Wojnar Zapata Family Joan Zbichorski

You Can Help Our Families Gleam!

Every donation helps a child or family in need, whether through shelter, education, or social programs for mental health, foster care, or workforce development. When children and families can see a successful path before them, they are driven to reach their goals.

Here's how you can help our families succeed. No gift is too small—every contribution is meaningful and important!

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.

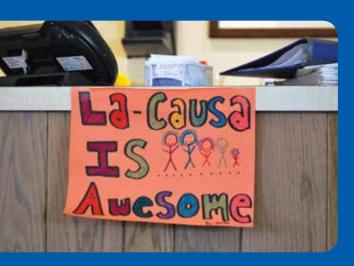
Attend or sponsor our Annual Fundraiser dinner—an evening of food, fun, auction items, and more!

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 414-316-5498 or visit www.lacausa.org









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Jertha Ramos-Colon Community Representative

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Where Children and Families Come First

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Locations

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

Crisis Nursery & Respite Center 522 W. Walker St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-647-5990

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

> La Causa Charter School 1643 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-902-1660

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

www.lacausa.org



Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.

- Garrison Keillor













